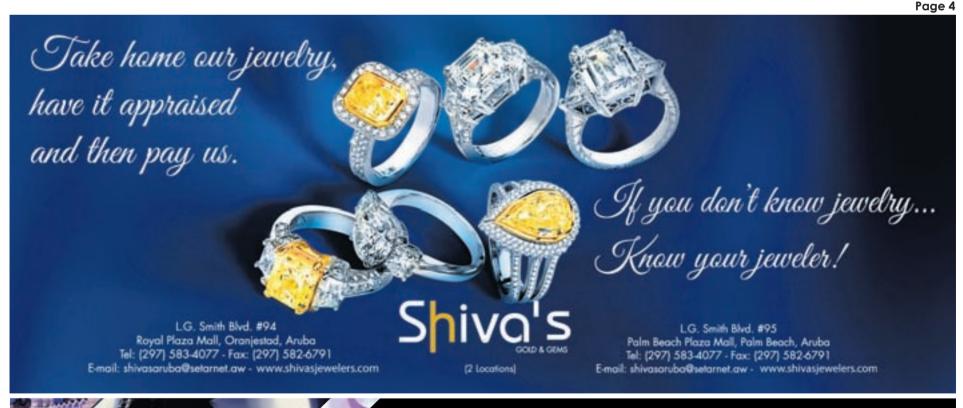
On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, July 17, 2015



Police officers enter the Armed Forces Career Center through a bullet-riddled door after a gunman opened fire on the building Thursday, July 16, 2015, in Chattanooga, Tenn.

(AP Photo/John Bazemore)





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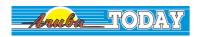
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White House seeks support at home and abroad for Iran deal

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent
WASHINGTON (AP) — At
home and abroad, the
White House courted support for a landmark nuclear
deal with Iran on Thursday
as congressional leaders
in both parties pointed toward a politically charged
showdown this fall over Republican attempts to scuttle the agreement.

"It blows my mind that the administration would agree to lift the arms and missile bans and sanctions," said the Republican leader of the House, Speaker John Boehner, referring to some of the provisions in the complex accord.

He said the Republicancontrolled Congress would likely soon be on track to pass legislation denying President Barack Obama the ability to lift numerous financial and other restrictions Iran currently faces.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi became the first prominent Democrat in Congress to back the deal, saying she is "very optimistic about our ability to support the president."

Obama has pledged to veto any bill rejecting the agreement. Neither Pelosi nor Boehner ventured a prediction on the final outcome.

The maneuvering in Congress unfolded as Secretary of State John Kerry met with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir, coming away without an immediate endorsement for the deal.

"We hope that the Iranians will use this deal in order to improve the economic situation in Iran and to improve the lot of the Iranian people and not use it for adventures in the region," the Saudi diplomat said. His country is Iran's main rival in the Middle East, and Kerry promised to respond if Tehran supports terrorism against its neighbors.

Kerry intends to brief Persian Gulf leaders early next month at a meeting in Qatar. Even before then, Defense Secretary Ash Carter leaves this weekend for the Mideast, with stops in Israel and Saudi Arabia. Officials said his mandate is to reassure the Jewish state that the U.S. is committed to guaranteeing its ally's regional military superiority. Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu is an

Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu is an implacable opponent of the deal, saying it would put Iran on a path toward acquiring a nuclear weapon.

Under the agreement, Iran pledged to curb its nuclear program for a decade in exchange for potentially hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of relief from international sanctions. Many penalties on the Iranian economy, such as those related to the energy and financial sectors, could be lifted by the end of the year.

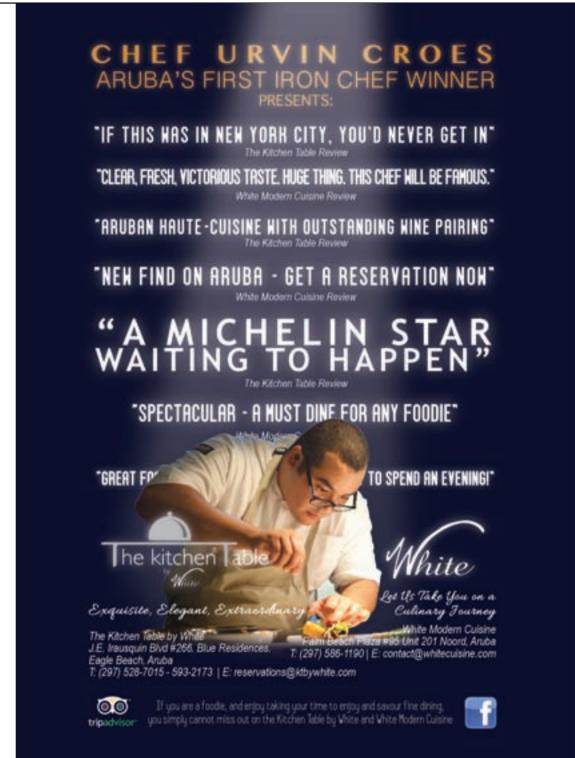
One prominent supporter of the deal sounded less than enthusiastic.

Democratic presidential contender Hillary Rodham Clinton, campaigning in New Hampshire, said that despite the deal, Iran continues "to be a major exporter of terrorism, instability, insurgency, proxies like Hezbollah. They remain an existential threat to Israel, they are intent upon destabilizing the Middle East." Even so, she said, it's better to "put a lid" on its nuclear program

At a news conference in the Capitol complex, Boehner spoke strongly against the deal and rebutted one of Obama's central claims over the past two days.

"If President Obama says it's this deal or war, well that's a false choice. The sanctions were working and bringing Iran to its knees," Boehner said. The House, he added, is "going to fight a bad deal that's wrong for our national security and wrong for our country."

Under a bill Obama signed in anticipation of the accord, he has five days to submit the agreement with Iran to Congress. Lawmakers then have 60 days to receive briefings, hold hearings and pass any leg-





Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Saudi Arabia Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, Thursday, July 16, 2015, at the State Department in Washington. (AP Photo/Molly Riley)

islation disapproving it.
Strictly speaking, lawmakers do not have the authority to defeat the deal, but they can block the presi-

dent from lifting sanctions that Congress has voted to put in place. That, in turn, would let Iran argue that the United States was trying to change a deal and walk away from it.
In announcing the deal on Tuesday, Obama said he would veto any a





4 Marines, gunman dead in attack on military sites

KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee (AP) — A gunman unleashed a barrage of fire at a recruiting center and another U.S. military site a few miles apart in Chattanooga on Thursday, killing

LUCAS L. JOHNSON

at least four Marines, officials said. The attacker was also killed. Federal authorities said they were investigating the possibility it was an act of

terrorism, and the FBI took

charge of the case. A U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity identified the gunman as 24-year-old Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez of Hixson, Tennessee, though the spelling of his first name was in dispute, with federal authorities and records giving at least four variations. The official said Abdulazeez was believed to have been born in Kuwait. It was unclear whether he was a U.S.

In addition to the Marines killed, three people were reported wounded, including a sailor who was said to have been seriously hurt.

or Kuwaiti citizen.

"Lives have been lost from some faithful people who have been serving our country, and I think I join all Tennesseans in being both sickened and saddened by this," Gov. Bill Haslam said. Within hours of the bloodshed, law officers with guns drawn swarmed what was believed to be Abdulazeez's house, and two females were led away in handcuffs.

A dozen law enforcement vehicles, including a

bomb-squad truck and an attacks were over within a open-sided Army green truck carrying armed men, rolled into the Colonial Shores neighborhood of Hixson, and police closed off streets and turned away people trying to reach their

half-hour.

Authorities would not say how the gunman died. FBI agent Ed Reinhold said Abdulazeez had "numerous weapons" but would not give details.

This April 2015 booking photo shows a man identified as Mohammad Youssduf Adbulazeer after being detained for a driving offense. A U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity identified the gunman in shootings at two Chattanooga military facilities as Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez, who shares the same age and address as the man in the photo.

(Hamilton County Sheriffs Office via AP)

homes.

gunman stopping his car and spraying dozens of bullets first at a recruiting center for all branches of the military, then apparently driving to a Navy-Marine training center 7 miles (11 kilometers) away, authorities and witnesses said. The

Four Marines were killed, The shootings took places the Marine Corps said. minutes apart, with the And a Navy sailor who was with them was seriously wounded, according to two U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case publicly.

In addition, a Marine was wounded in the leg but not

officer was shot in the ankle, Mayor Andy Berke said. The names of the dead were not immediately released.

Reinhold said authorities were looking into whether it was domestic or international terrorism or "a simple criminal act."

The U.S. National Counterterrorism Center said it has seen no connection so far to any terrorist organization.

But it noted that the Islamic State group has been encouraging extremists to carry out attacks in the U.S., and several such homegrown acts of violence or plots have been uncovered in recent months.

In Washington, President Barack Obama pledged a prompt and thorough investigation and said the White House had been in touch with the Pentagon to make sure military installations are being vigilant.

"It is a heartbreaking circumstance for these individuals who served our country with great valor to be killed in this fashion," he

Vice President Joe Biden likewise said: "Their families have already given a lot to the country, and now this." The shootings began at the recruiting center on Old Lee Highway, where a shot rang out around 10:30 or 10:45 a.m., followed a few seconds later by more fire, said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Dodge, leader of Army recruiting at the center.

He and his comrades dropped to the ground and barricaded themselves in a

seriously hurt. And a police safe place. Dodge estimated there were 30 to 50 shots fired. Doors and glass were damaged at the neighboring Air Force, Navy and Marine offices, he said.

> Law enforcement officials told recruiters that the gunman stopped his car in front of the recruiting station, shot at the building and drove off, said Brian Lepley, a spokesman with the U.S. **Army Recruiting Command** in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

> The recruiting center sits in a short strip mall, between a cellphone business and an Italian restaurant, with no apparent special secu-

> The gunman opened fire next at the Navy Operational Support Center and Marine Corps Reserve Center Chattanooga. All the dead were killed there.

> Marilyn Hutcheson, who works at Binswanger Glass across the street, said she heard a barrage of gunfire around 11 a.m.

> "I couldn't even begin to tell you how many," she said. "It was rapid-fire, like pow-pow-pow-pow, so quickly. The next thing I knew, there were police cars coming from every direction."

> She ran inside, and she and other employees and a customer waited it out with the doors locked. The gunfire continued with occasional bursts for what she estimated was 20 minutes. Bomb squads, SWAT teams and other local, state and federal authorities rushed to the scene.

> "If it was a grievance or terroristic related, we just don't know," she said.



Jury finds Colorado theater shooter guilty of murder

SADIE GURMAN Associated Press Colorado CENTENNIAL,

(AP) — Jurors convicted Colorado theater shooter James Holmes on Thursday in the chilling 2012 attack on defenseless moviegoers at a midnight Batman premiere, rejecting defense arguments that the former graduate student was insane and driven to murder by delusions.

The 27-year-old Holmes, who had been working toward his Ph.D. in neuroscience, could get the death penalty for the massacre that left 12 people dead and dozens of others wounded.

Jurors took about 13 hours over a day and a half to review all 165 charges. The same panel must now decide whether Holmes should pay with his life.

The verdict came almost three years after Holmes, dressed head-to-toe in body armor, slipped through the emergency exit of the darkened theater in suburban Denver and replaced the Hollywood violence of the movie "The Dark Knight Rises" with real human carnage. His victims included two active-duty servicemen, a single mom, a man celebrating his 27th birthday and an aspiring broadcast-

er who had survived a mall shooting in Toronto. Several died shielding friends or loved ones.

The trial offered a rare glimpse into the mind of a mass shooter, as most are killed by police, kill themselves or plead guilty.

Prosecutors argued Holmes knew exactly what he was doing when he methodically gunned down strangers in the stadium-style theater, taking aim at those who fled. They painted him as a calculated killer who sought to assuage his failures in school and romance with a mass murder that he believed would increase his personal worth. He snapped photos of him-

self with fiery orange hair and scrawled his plans for the massacre in a spiral notebook he sent his university psychiatrist just hours before the attack, all in a calculated effort to be remembered, prosecutors said.

The prosecution called more than 200 witnesses over two months, more than 70 of them survivors, including some who were missing limbs and using wheelchairs. They recalled the panic to escape the black-clad gunman.

The youngest to die was a 6-year-old girl whose mother also suffered a miscar-



In this July, 2012 photo, James Holmes, who is charged with killing 12 moviegoers and wounding 70 more in a shooting spree in a crowded theatre in 2012, sits in Arapahoe County District Court in Centennial, Colo. On Thursday, July 16, 2015, a jury found Holmes guilty of murder in the methodically planned attack. The verdict means the 27-year-old former neuroscience graduate student could get the death penalty for the shooting.

(RJ Sangosti/The Denver Post via AP)

riage and was paralyzed in the attack. Another woman who was nine months pregnant at the time described her agonizing decision to leave her wounded husband behind in the theater to save their baby. She later gave birth in the same hospital where he was in a coma. He can no longer walk and has trouble talking.

That Holmes was the lone gunman was never in doubt. 🗖

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President Obama visits federal prison

DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press EL RENO, Oklahoma (AP) —

Barack Obama got a firsthand look at the U.S. criminal justice system Thursday, becoming the first sitting president to set foot inside a federal prison and meet with incarcerated men there.

Obama's visit to a medium-security prison for male offenders in the state of Oklahoma was part of his push for an alternative to the continued lengthy incarceration of people convicted of crimes he believes did not fit the punishment. Obama has called for shortening the prison sentences of non-violent drug offenders as well as for advocating the reduc-

tion, or outright elimination, of severe mandatory minimum sentences.

In a recent speech Obama said that overly harsh prison sentences, particularly for nonviolent drug crimes, are to blame for doubling the prison population in the past two decades. Half a million people were behind bars in 1980, a figure that has since quadrupled to its current total of more than The U.S. president said 2.2 million inmates, the highest rate of incarceration in the world.

After peering into a sterile prison cell at the El Reno Federal Correctional Institution. Obama said the U.S. needs to reconsider the way crime is controlled and prisoners are rehabilitated. Obama, who has vowed

to make criminal justice reform a centerpiece of his closing months in office, said he also felt a kinship with some of the young inmates.

"When they describe their youth and their childhood, these are young people who made mistakes that aren't that different than the mistakes I made,' Obama said.

there must be a distinction between young people "doing stupid things" and violent criminals. Young people who make mistakes, he said, could be thriving if they had access to resources and support structures "that would allow them to survive those mistakes."



Clinton proposes tax breaks for corporate profit-sharing

BY JILL COLVIN **Associated Press**

DOVER, New Hampshire (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton proposed new incentives Thursday to encourage corporations to share profits with work-

Clinton said she wants to expand loan forgiveness for students who go into public service. She was speaking at a town hall meeting in New Hampshire, a key early-voting state in the presidential nominating process. She said student loan payments should be continaent on income.

While Clinton remains by far the overwhelming favorite in the race for the Democratic nomination, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has mounted an unexpectedly strong challenge in recent weeks. His highlighting the yawning gap that exists between richest and poorest in American and other liberal issues has seen him drawing big crowds at rallies in key vot-

ing states.

Clinton's plan seeks to address the issue of income inequality by giving businesses that offer employees a share of profits a twoyear tax credit equal to at least 15 percent of their profit-sharing payments.

If a company took full advantage of Clinton's profitsharing tax credit, an em-

ployee earning \$50,000 per year, for instance, could receive \$5,000 in added income, and the company in turn would get a \$750 tax credit for that worker. The plan would place limits on eligible income and exclude high-income workers and firms where only a small percentage of employees benefit.

Doctor: 3-4 months for George HW Bush's fracture to heal

DAVID SHARP Associated Press PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

Former President George H.W. Bush fractured a bone in his neck when he took a tumble at his oceanside summer home, but he suffered no neurological impairment and the injury will be allowed to heal on its own, which is expected to take three to four months, U.S. officials said Thursday.

Bush, at 91 the oldest living former president, remained hospitalized in fair condition a day after he fell at his home in Kennebunkport.

The fracture to his C2 vertebrae — the second one below the skull — didn't impinge on his spine and didn't lead to any neurological deficits, spokesman Jim McGrath said. The 41st president never lost consciousness and was being fitted with a brace to immobilize his neck, Mc-Grath said.

Dr. William D'Angelo, a neurosurgeon who is treating Bush at Maine Medical Center, said the former president was lucky the



In this 2014 photo, former President George H.W. Bush acknowledges the crowd in College Station, Texas. Bush fractured a bone in his neck when he took a tumble at his oceanside summer home, Wednesday, July 15, 2015, in Kennebunkport, Maine. (AP Photo/Texas Tribune, Bob Daemmrich)

fracture wasn't more seri-OUS.

"He's in great spirits," D'Angelo told reporters outside the hospital. "He's with family. As his wife said, it takes a lot more than this to knock his spirts down. He was shot down over the Pacific in World War II. She

said this is a small bump in the road."

Bush is being treated at the state's largest medical facility, where a children's hospital is named for his wife. The family declined to say how he fell.

A hospital spokesman said it was premature to speculate about when Bush will be released, but McGrath suggested it won't be a lengthy stay. "We do not discuss timelines for discharge, but do not believe this will be a prolonged recovery period at MMC," he said.

D'Angelo said the injury is

common among seniors who fall and can be painful. "It's a significant injury, but right now the president is in excellent shape, and we anticipate he'll make a full recovery," the doc-

"He's tough. He can take it," D'Angelo said. "He's doing great, his spirits are good, and he's up and talking, and out of bed." President Barack Obama called Bush on Thursday morning to wish him a speedy recovery, a White House spokesman said. Obama made the call from Oklahoma, where he spent the night ahead of a visit to a federal prison

Bush, who has a form of Parkinson's disease and uses a motorized scooter or a wheelchair for mobility, has suffered other recent health setbacks. He was hospitalized in Houston in December for about a week for shortness of breath. He spent Christmas 2012 in intensive care at the same Houston hospital for a bronchitisrelated cough and other

More investigations into group's policies on aborted fetuses

DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

Officials in Georgia, Indiana and Ohio have orties in their states to determine if organs from aborted fetuses were being sold. The investigations — as well as probes announced Wednesday by three Republican-led congressional committees — come in response to the release of an

undercover video made by anti-abortion activists. The video shows Dr. Deborah Nucatola, Planned dered investigations of Parenthood's senior direc-Planned Parenthood facilitor of medical services, discussing procedures for providing fetal body parts to researchers.

> Planned Parenthood officials said Nucatola has been "reprimanded." They did not elaborate. The organization's president, Cecile Richards, apologized

for the tone of some of Nucatola's recorded statements. Nucatola is heard in the video referring to fetal hearts, lungs and livers and to efforts to retrieve these organs intact rather than crush them during an abortion procedure. She also is heard giving a range of monetary estimates for their procurement.

The commercial sale of fetal tissue is outlawed. Planned Parenthood,

which provides abortions and other reproductive health services, says it legally helps women who want to make not-for-profit donations of their fetus' organs for scientific research. According to Planned Parenthood, the monetary sums mentioned by Nucatola were for reimbursement of the clinics' costs in handling the tissue donations. "Nobody should be 'selling' tissue. That's just

not the goal here," Nucatola says at one point. The video, made covertly last year, was produced by the California-based Center for Medical Progress which released it with the support of several national anti-abortion organizations. It shows a lunchtime conversation between Nucatola and anti-abortion activists posing as potential buyers for a human biologics company.

Applications for jobless aid fall to low of 281,000

C. S. RUGABER AP Economics Writer WASHINGTON (AP)

Fewer people sought U.S. unemployment benefits last week as employers remain confident enough in the economy to hold onto their staffs.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the number of applications for weekly unemployment aid fell 15,000 to 281,000. The four-week average, a less volatile figure, rose 3,250 to 282,500. Both figures remain below 300,000, a very low level historically that points to a solid job market.

Applications are a proxy for layoffs, so last week's readings show that businesses are cutting few jobs. Applications have been below 300,000 since March.

"After 18 straight weeks below 300,000, it's clear that the trend in layoffs is very low indeed, close to all-time lows when adjusted for the rising population over time," Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said in a note to clients. The total number of people receiving aid dropped 112,000 last week to 2.22 million. That's 13 percent lower than a year ago. Many people receiving benefits have used up all their aid, though some have likely found jobs.

With layoffs low, employers are also hiring more to meet greater demand for their goods and services. The economy added 223,000 jobs in June, and the unemployment rate fell to a seven-year low of 5.3 percent.

Still, there were signs of lingering weakness in the job market.

US Financial Front:

Homebuilder sentiment hits highest level since 2005

ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

U.S. homebuilders' confidence in the market for new homes is back up to levels not seen since the height of the housing boom a decade ago.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Thursday rose this month to 60, the highest level since November 2005. The latest reading is unchanged from May, which was revised upward one point from 59. July's reading is up from 53 a year ago. Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good, rather than poor.

Builders' view of current sales conditions and their outlook for sales over the next six months also rose. A measure of traffic by prospective buyers fell slightly. "As we head into the sec-



A worker helps to frame a new home at a housing tract in Las Vegas. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo released its monthly index of builder sentiment on Thursday, July 16, 2015.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

ond half of 2015, we should expect a continued recovery of the housing market," said Tom Woods, the NAHB's chairman.

The builder survey follows a report last month showing sales of new homes accelerated in May to the strongest pace since February 2008 after a sluggish start to

the year. Sales rose 2.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 546,000. All told, new home sales are up 24 percent through the first five months of this year. June home sales data are due out next week.

Strong job growth and relatively low mortgage rates have fueled the increase in

sales. Borrowing costs are low by historical standards, though they have been rising in recent weeks.

Mortgage giant Freddie Mac said Thursday the average rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage increased to 4.09 percent from 4.04 percent a week earlier. The new level is the highest since last October. The big question is whether the heightened optimism will make builders willing to build more homes on "spec," or before they're sold. Builders typically invest in putting up more spec homes when they feel good about the likelihood that the homes will be snapped up sooner, rather than later.

"We've been seeing a lower amount of speculative building than we usually do," said Stephanie Karol, a U.S. economist at IHS Global Insight.

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Greek banks to reopen after cash pledge from lenders

ELENA BECATOROS
DEREK GATOPOULOS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece on Thursday won vital pledges of support from bailout lenders needed to keep its economy from collapsing, but officials in Athens said the painful austerity measures demanded in return were likely to force an election within months.

Hours after parliament approved the tough new cuts, the government promised to reopen banks on Monday and gradually restore services — helped by higher cash support from the European Central Bank.

The ECB announced it was increasing emergency credit to Greek banks, adding another 900 million euros (\$980 million) in support over one week. And eurozone lenders pledged short-term loans so Greece can cover its debts and negotiations for a new three-year bailout worth 85 billion euros (\$93 billion).

The news buoyed world markets and came as a relief in Greece, where banks and the stock market have been closed for nearly three weeks.

Officials in Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' government, however, were still reeling from the contentious post-midnight vote that saw one-in-four lawmakers from Tsipras' left-wing Syriza party vote against the raft of tax increases, pension cuts and other economic reforms.

Interior Minister Nikos Voutsis said an early election was now seen as "very likely" — either in September or October.

With another austerity vote planned next week, Voutsis cautioned that the level of dissent shown Thursday had fallen just short of toppling Tsipras' 6-month-old government, which was elected on a pledge to free Greece from debilitating austerity.

In Berlin, Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble insisted that growing calls to ax a portion of Greece's 320 billion euro debt mountain would not be accepted and again raised the idea of a managed Greek exit from the euro.



A bank employee distributes tags with queue positions to pensioners as they wait outside the main gate of the national bank of Greece to withdraw a maximum of 120 euros (\$134) in central Athens, Thursday, July 16, 2015.

(AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)

"No one knows at the moment how it's supposed to work without a debt cut, and everyone knows that a debt cut is incompatible with membership in the currency union," Schaeuble told Deutschlandfunk radio.

However, the head of eurozone finance ministers, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, shot down talk of a Greek euro exit. "Schaeuble," he said, "If you reach an agreement after such long and hard talks, you have to stand behind it, and that goes for all sides."

Germany's insistence on tough terms for Greece even after bailout austerity deepened and extended its six-year recession has earned Schaeuble criticism, even inside Germany.

A Munich-based think tank, Project for Democratic Union, said it was time for Schaeuble to resign.

"Under the Schaeuble regime the eurozone is no union, it is a creditor-debtor relationship," the group said on its website. While negotiating the Greece deal, Schaeuble "changed the political climate in Europe for the worse."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew met Thursday with Schaeuble and French Finance Minister Michel Sapin, and urged Greece's creditors to make sure the struggling country emerges from negotiations with debts it can manage. In a telephone call with Tsipras, he also called on the Greeks to "fully" implement the budget cuts and economic reforms they had agreed to.

In Athens, Deputy Finance Minister Dimitris Mardas said banks would reopen Monday after a three-week closure, though withdrawal restrictions would remain in place. Bank customers "can deposit cash, they can transfer money from one account to the other," but they can't withdraw money except at ATMs, Mardas said.



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RESERVATION SUGGESTED

Ukraine moves toward constitutional reform

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's parliament on Thursday gave preliminary approval to a bill that would devolve more powers to separatist-controlled areas in eastern Ukraine and sent it for review at the country's highest court.

The conflict between Russia-backed rebels and Ukrainian government troops has killed more than 6,400 people since fighting there began last April.

An armistice signed in February calls for a political resolution in the region including constitutional reform that will give all Ukrainian regions — and the

east specifically — more powers.

Presenting the bill on Thursday, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko insisted that the changes he is proposing would not turn Ukraine into a federation. He said that along with giving more powers to local authorities throughout the country, the bill allows broader autonomy in the areas the government is currently not controlling.

"Ukraine will stay a unitary state," Poroshenko told the parliament.

Poroshenko stopped short of explaining the particulars of the self-governance in the east, but the details are expected to be released when the bill goes to parliament

Lawmakers on Thursday voted 228-58 for the bill, and it now goes to the country's Constitution Court. Once approved, it will go back to the parliament to be voted on again, and later to be signed into law by the president.

Lawmakers were debating the bill in the presence of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, who is in Kiev on a visit and was watching the vote from the public gallery.



Yemen troops push Shiite rebels out of Aden areas

AHMED AL-HAJ Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Saudi-backed Yemeni troops and fighters have driven Shiite rebels out of two major neighborhoods in the southern port city of Aden, Thursday, prompting street celebrations by residents after weeks of fierce fighting.

Residents said armored vehicles and troops have deployed in the neighborhoods of Crater and Mualla, where fighting had intensified earlier as part of an offensive to regain control of the port city from the Shiite rebels and allied forces.

"Today we are free," Aseel Mohsen, a resident of Mualla said by telephone, as celebratory gunfire broke out in the background. She said she had spent the last couple of days mostly holed up with 30 other people in the basement of their apartment building where they were taking cover from the intense fighting.

"We can now go down and prepare and shop for Eid," Mohsen said, in reference to the feast that follows Islam's holy month of Ramadan, which ends Thursday in most of the Muslim world.



Fighters against Shiite rebels known as Houthis gather at the frontline of fighting against Houthis fighters in the port city of Aden, Yemen, Thursday, July 16, 2015. Saudi-backed Yemeni troops and fighters have driven Shiite rebels out of two major neighborhoods in the southern port city of Aden, Thursday, prompting street celebrations by residents after weeks of fierce fighting.

(AP Photo/Abo Muhammed)

A U.N. brokered truce, which had largely failed to hold, is expected to end with the conclusion of the holy month of Ramadan. The truce was intended to put an end to months of punishing fighting in the war-torn impoverished Gulf nation and allow for the dispersing of much-needed humanitarian aid.

Fierce fighting in Aden broke out in March as empowered Iran-allied Shiite rebels expanded their bid for power from the Yemeni capital Sanaa, which they overran in September. The rebels have allied with several military units loyal to Yemen's former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The offensive, closely coordinated with the Saudi-led coalition, is a serious blow to the Shiite rebels, who have taken control of several provinces in Yemen, and driven the country's internationally-recognized president into exile. President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi has been living in

Saudi Arabia since March. The rebels, and allied forces, remain in control of the capital and other provinces. Hadi, in a recorded speech aired on TV, congratulated the troops and fighters for regaining con-

trol of parts of Aden.
"Aden will be the key to salvation for our people and our case," Hadi said.

"From Aden, we will regain Yemen."

Fighting intensified Thursday in Aden as Saudibacked troops forced the rebels out of neighborhoods they control.

Meanwhile, the rebels, known as Houthis, fired Katyusha rockets that landed in the vicinity of the airport early Thursday, killing three anti-rebel fighters, according to a government official.

They also fired at least five rockets at the city's refinery, military officials said.

The government official said the Saudi-trained Yemeni troops took control of the Crater neighborhood, the commercial hub of Aden that houses a presidential palace, and neighboring Mualla. He said armored vehicles were roaming the streets of the neighborhoods to ensure it has been cleared of rebels, and installing checkpoints manned by local militias.

The Saudi-backed troops and fighters, along with Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, had pushed the rebels out of the city's airport Tuesday.

Syria:

Kurds besiege IS gunmen in Hassakeh

BEIRUT (AP) — Kurdish fighters besieged members of the Islamic State group Thursday in the northeastern Syrian city of Hassakeh as they pushed forward under the cover of airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition, an activist group and the main Kurdish militia in Syria said.

Kurdish fighters have been on the offensive in northern Syria since January, capturing large areas from the extremist group and controlling a long stretch along the border with Turkey.

The IS group attacked several government-held southern neighborhoods in Hassakeh last month and troops have since failed to retake the areas. YPG fighters joined the battle, recently capturing several villages south of Hassakeh. Syria-based Kurdish official Mustafa Bali said members of the People's Protection Units, or YPG, have cut all the roads linking Hassakeh with nearby IS strongholds in the province.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the YPG said Kurdish fighters captured a juvenile prison and a power station south of Hassakeh on Thursday.

"Daesh fighters are besieged inside the city," Bali said by telephone using an Arabic acronym to refer to the Islamic State group. "The aim of YPG is to liberate Hasssakeh."

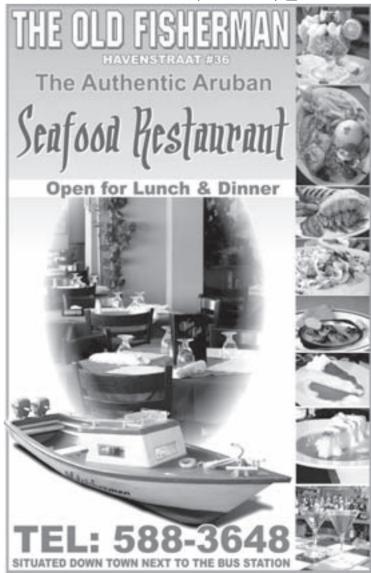
The YPG said on its Face-

book page that "our fighters are now surrounding the mercenaries from all sides in the city." It added that streets on the southern edge of Hassakeh are full of bodies of dead IS fighters and others have been taken prisoner.

"Our units are advancing and have captured several strategic areas," the YPG Facebook statement said.

Before IS captured parts of Hassakeh last month, the city had been split between government and Kurdish forces.

The Islamic State group holds a self-declared caliphate across roughly a third of Syria and neighboring Iraq.





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Netanyahu, British FM spar over Iran deal disagreements

TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's prime minister and the British foreign secretary publicly sparred over the nuclear deal with Iran on Thursday, veering off prepared comments to exchange sharply different positions toward the agreement.

The awkward encounter reflected two world views: Western powers hope the deal can eventually moderate Iran and bring it back into the international community, while Israel believes Iran will use any newfound legitimacy as cover to strengthen militant groups and further destabilize the region.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu battled unsuccessfully to scuttle what he called "a bad deal" emerging in the talks, insisting that any sanctions relief would provide Iran with a "cash bonanza" that will make it easier for the Islamic Republic to continue to support Israel's enemies,

including the Lebanese Hezbollah Shiite militant group and the Palestinian group Hamas, and meddle in proxy conflicts in the Middle East.

Since the deal was announced, Netanyahu has condemned it as a "stunning historic mistake," saying Israel was not bound by the agreement and suggesting that military action remains an option. Opposition legislators have rallied around Netanyahu against the deal, and Netanyahu's chief political rival, Isaac Herzog announced he would travel to the U.S. to lobby for a compensation package to insure Israel's military advantage in the region. In his appearance with Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond on Thursday, Netanyahu expressed his concern that the deal does not seek to link sanctions relief to Iran's conduct.

"We would have wanted to see a deal that says the following: 'Iran, you will get the easing on the restrictions on



Visiting British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, left, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin
Netanyahu hold a joint press conference in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem on Thursday,
July 16, 2015. Netanyahu and Hammond sparred publicly Thursday over the international
nuclear deal with Iran, veering off prepared comments to exchange sharply different positions
toward the agreement.

(Debbie Hill, Pool Photo via AP)

your nuclear program, and you will get sanctions relief if you change your behavior first," Netanyahu told Hammond, saying he found it "perplexing" that the deal does not address repeated calls by Iranian leaders for Israel's destruction.

He said that by easing sanctions and giving Iran hundreds of billions of dollars in relief in the coming years, Iran would foment "more terrorism" through its proxies in the Middle East and beyond. Hezbollah and Hamas possess vast arsenals of rockets and missiles funded or produced by Iran.

Egyptian navy vessel targeted by militants off Sinai's coast

HAMZA HENDAWI Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian navy vessel was targeted on Thursday by militants affiliated with the Islamic State group, who claimed they destroyed it with a rocket while it was anchored off the Sinai peninsula's Mediterranean coast.

Egyptian military spokesman Brig. Gen. Mohammed Samir said the vessel caught fire in an exchange of fire with "terrorists" on the shore and that there were no fatalities among its crew members. He did not say how much dam-

age the vessel suffered and gave no details on the type of ship or the size of its crew.

However, security officials said an unspecified number of crew members suffered injuries from the fire and that several of them jumped overboard to escape the raging fire.

The Egyptian IS affiliate, which calls itself the Sinai Province of the Islamic State, said it destroyed the vessel with a rocket. Its claim of responsibility came in a statement posted on Twitter accounts known to be linked to the group.

The authenticity of the statement could not be immediately verified, but it was accompanied by photos purporting to show what appears to be a rocket flying toward the vessel, a large explosion engulfing most of the boat and then black smoke rising up from the vessel.

The attack on the ship is the first of its kind by the IS affiliate in Egypt, representing a qualitative evolvement in the military capabilities of the group, whose campaign of violence has been mostly restricted to the northern part of Sinai bordering Gaza and Israel. Its claim of responsibility for Thursday's attack on the vessel is the second in as many days for major operations, or attempted ones. On Wednesday, the military said it foiled an attempted attack on a military post on a highway linking Cairo to the Red Sea coast. The driver of a car that was carrying 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) of explosives refused to stop at a checkpoint, drawing fire from troops, the military said in a statement. It then swerved off the road and the driver was killed, it added.

Egypt's Islamic State affili-

ate said it was behind the incident, claiming the car's driver was a suicide bomber who had detonated his explosives, killing several soldiers. The authenticity of the claim, which was denied by the military, could not be independently verified, though it was, like Thursday's, carried by Twitter accounts known to be linked to the group.

A witness, fisherman Abu Ibrahim Mohammed from the neighboring Gaza Strip, said the vessel targeted Thursday was a gunboat that was about a nautical mile off the coast when it caught fire.



WORLD NEWS A11 FRIDAY 17 JULY 2015



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China reprimands online companies for spread of sex video

DIDITANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Sex maysell, but a steamy video purportedly taken inside a Uniqlo fitting room in Beijing is giving the clothing retailer some uncomfortable attention.

Online searches for the Japanese clothing brand soared this week after the viral spread of the video apparently showing a young couple having sex in the Chinese capital's flaaship store.

But the video also has drawn the concern of police and China's highest web regulator who are investigating whether it was a vulgar marketing gimmick.

The 71-second video shows

a man filming himself with a woman in front of a mirror. A Uniglo store announcement can be heard clearly in the background welcoming customers and advising them that fitting rooms are on the second and third floors while cashiers are on the first.

Uniqlo has denied any involvement in the video. It also has urged shoppers to make proper use of its fitting rooms, which already have become a euphemism for make-out spots among China's web users, who are urging other clothing retailers to enlarge their fitting rooms to attract new clientele.

The online carnival is abating, however, now that the Cyberspace Administration



A Chinese couple take a selfie outside the Uniqlo flagship store where a steamy video purportedly taken inside one of its fitting room showing a couple apparently having sex in Beijing, Thursday, July 16, 2015. While online searches for the Japanese clothing brand soared after the viral spread of the video, it has also drawn the concern of the police and China's highest web regulator who are investigating whether it was a vulgar marketing gimmick.

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

of China has chastised two of the country's main Internet companies for allowing

the video to go viral. It had been circulating mainly on Sina Corp.'s microblogging

site and Tencent Holding Ltd.'s popular mobile message app.

Japan's lower parliament house approves expanded military role

MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — As opposition lawmakers walked out in protest, Japan's lower house of parliament approved legislation on Thursday that sharply changes the country's postwar defense policy by allowing an expanded role for the military.

The vote came one day after Prime Minster Shinzo Abe's ruling bloc forced the bills through a committee despite protests both inside and outside parliament.

On Thursday, hundreds lation brings greater risks of protesters outside the to Japan and violates the building chanted anti-war constitution, which in Arand anti-Abe slogans during the debate and vote, some holding banners reading, "No to war legislation!"

Abe has long wanted to drafted post-World War II es against the bills.

constitution. He says the military's role should be strengthened to counter China's growing presence in the region, contribute to international peacekeeping, and prepare for new types of threats such as terrorist attacks.

"The legislation is absolutely necessary in order to protect the lives of the Japanese people and prevent the risk of war," Abe told reporters after the vote. "The security environment surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly harsh."

Opponents say the legisticle 9 renounces war "as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes."

Opposition lawmakers remove restrictions on Ja- walked out after their party pan's military in the U.S.- leaders delivered speech-



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AP Exclusive:

Palestinians quitting medical study in Venezuela

HANNAH DREIER Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— The Palestinian students were greeted like celebrities upon arrival in Caracas. President Nicolas Maduro wore a kaffiyeh headdress and played up their symbolic importance during an address broadcast across the socialist South American country.

"Today, Palestine enters the heart of Venezuela," Maduro declared in November when he greeted the first 119 recipients of a medical school scholarship, adding that the historic exchange with a key ideological ally had made him cry.

The program to train young Palestinians as doctors was to be the latest addition to an array of international solidarity programs the late President Hugo Chavez established, the best-known of which provides communist Cuba with cheap oil in exchange for the services of tens of thousands of health professionals.

But eight months later, about a third of the Palestinians have dropped out, complaining the program lacks academic rigor, according to interviews The Associated Press conducted with students, teachers and government officials. At least 29 already have gone home, while the other dropouts have stayed on living rent-free as they wait to receive plane tick-

The Palestinians who left the Yasser Arafat Scholarship Program, which included seven years of room and board at a state-run school staffed by Cuban doctors, said they weren't getting the training they needed to become recognized physicians. Dismissing those concerns, school officials say the young people were homesick and susceptible to manipulation by government critics.

The students' decision to leave prompted Venezuela to freeze the scholarship program that was supposed to bring in hundreds more Palestinians to study in various fields, according to an official in the Palestinian Education Ministry in the West Bank city of Ramallah. The young people's choices have raised diplomatic tensions between the two allies, said the official, who insisted on anonymity be-

dropped out complain that their first year consisted only of Spanish language lessons and indoctrination about Venezuela's 16-year-old socialist revolution. They say they were surprised when their teachers presented a curriculum centered on com-

ident of Chile who killed himself while being overthrown by a 1973 coup. The school outside Caracas is adorned with shaggy palm trees and busts of revolutionary figures.

Instructors and students at the school defend the curriculum, saying it empha-



In this November, 2014 photo, Palestinian students attend a ceremony at the Simon Bolivar airport in Maiquetia, Venezuela. The Palestinian students were greeted like celebrities upon arrival in Caracas. But eight months later, about a third of the Palestinians have dropped out, complaining that the program lacks academic rigor, according to interviews conducted with students, teachers and government officials.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

cause he was not authorized to talk to the media. Chavez, who saw himself as a leader of the developing world, was a vocal proponent of the Palestinians' right to statehood, which he saw as part of a broader battle against colonialism and the West.

Sandra Moreno, director of the Dr. Salvador Allende medical school, did not respond to multiple requests for interviews, nor did federal health and higher education officials in Venezuela.

Initially, the aspiring doctors of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Many were escaping refugee camps, or leaving behind Gaza, which was ravaged last summer by a conflict with Israel that left more than 2.000 dead.

But the students who

munity health and worried when doctors from other institutions warned that their education wouldn't meet international standards.

Fouad Fattoum, 19, has been waiting since early June for program administrators to provide him with a return ticket to the West Bank. He now expects to fly home Saturday.

"I want to help my people, and what they need are doctors," Fattoum said. "I want learn as much information as possible and that's not what I would get in this program."

were delighted to receive Departing students have the scholarships named for also complained about Arafat, the late chairman crime in Caracas, which has a homicide rate that mirrors a war zone even in the absence of an armed conflict.

> The Salvador Allende medical school, a sister facility to Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine, is named for the Marxist pres

sizes preventive medicine that has a greater impact on daily life than traditional training that might involve costlier diagnostic technology.

Students accompany Cu-

ban physicians on rounds in poor neighborhoods and attend classes emphasizing their work's social impact. Biology teacher Sol Potino said that the Palestinians are probably just missing home and that students dissatisfied with the proaram should supplement their studies with additional research if they don't think they are getting the information they need.

"People criticize this kind of medicine because they know it's associated with the left," she said. "But you can make a lot of things better with just primary care, in terms of individual health and the health of a country."

Magnitude 6.4 quake strikes in the ocean north of Barbados: AP

CAROL WILLIAMS Associated Press BRIDGETOWN, **Barbados**

(AP) — A strong earthquake struck Thursday in the ocean northeast of Barbados and was widely felt throughout the Caribbean, but officials said there were no reports of damage or injuries.

Supermarkets and other businesses were evacuated and people moved away from the shore right after the quake hit. While earthquakes are common in the Caribbean, this was particularly strong and shallow.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude-6.4 quake was centered 81 miles (132 kilometers) northeast of the island's capital of Bridgetown at a shallow depth of about 3 miles (5 kilometers). It hit at 11:16 a.m. local time. (15:16 GMT).

There were no reports of any injuries or damages, according to Kerry Hinds, the acting director of the Department of Emergency Services in Barbados. Nevertheless she urged residents to be cautious, given the size of the quake.

"With earthquakes, there is the possibility of aftershocks so please be mindful of that," Hinds said.

Many Bajans were rattled. In the Bagatelle Terrace area of Barbados, residents said they nervous about another quake.

"I am concerned about what this means because there were two tremors in such a short space of time," said Pedro Barker, who said he felt dizzy when the ground began to shake and the windows of his home rattled.

A Facebook page maintained by the University of the West Indies' Seismic Research Center included comments that showed the earthquake was felt across much of the Caribbean, from nearby St. Vincent and the Grenadines and to Venezuela, Guyana and Trinidad in the south.



Recipients of Scholarships from Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall Announced!



PALM BEACH - The ownership and management of Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall in Palm Beach has demonstrated repeatedly their commitment to corporate responsibility and betterment of the island community through their support of youth; particularly in the realm of pursuing excellence in sports, developing talent in all the arts, and volunteer work.

The mall's newest initiative, "Education is a Gift," was announced by General Manager Valerie Pietersz-Camacho and Marketing Manager Candy Rasmijn-Reino in early June. They young women wishing to were accepting applications for a scholarship program for all levels of schoolchildren on Aruba from elementary to university level.

On Wednesday afternoon, July 15, Valerie Pietersz-Ca-

macho was very pleased to announce the recipients of 11 scholarships; the mall welcomed them and their parents with an informal reception at TGI Friday's.

The original plan was to provide fifteen awards distributed among the various scholastic levels. Ten students would be selected from the primary schools, four from the secondary schools, HAVO, MAVO or EPI, and one student from the University of Aruba. The panel evaluating the applications, however, were so impressed by the motivation and sincerity of three complete their education at the University of Aruba, they decided to adjust their original plan. Edlin Boekhoudt, Yeranny Rosario and Nikita Marcella Dirks will now realize their dreams of attaining BachManagement, Finance & Accounting, and Arts & Sciences, respectively. "The cost of tuition at the

elors Degrees in Hospitality

University of Aruba just went up this past year," explained the three college students, "and it will go up again next year. We had no idea how we were going to be able to afford it, but this program will enable us to complete our education and obtain our degrees."

"Seeing this type of initiative from Paseo Herencia gives me hope," commented Edlin. "I believe that giving back to the community is crucial, because it is an investment in our future. It has highly motivated me, and I am determined to go on for my Masters Degree." Aside from the University of Aruba students receiving full scholarships for the year were Soraida Maduro, attending the EPI, Aruba's professional training institute that awards Associate Degrees. Franzhela Croes, Chris Angela and Jessy Angela are attending MAVO, the equivalent of junior high school in the U.S., and Elementary Students Derbyson Maduro, Frangemario Angela, Jefferson Maduro, and Ashley Mangru. Along

with the scholarships, each student was awarded a premium quality backpack from Totto accessory store, filled with all the necessary items to see them through the school year.

The Paseo Herencia "Education is a Gift" Program judged the recipients not only on financial need, but a proven record of scholastic achievement, insurtion to assist any students that may be faltering, and perhaps resolve family or social problems, thus helping them get back on track before they withdraw their financial support.

"We have long standing programs dedicated to sustaining what we consider the foundation of a better community: cohesive family units and par-



each year for the winners, hopefully through their attaining a Masters Degree, provided they maintain their grade point average. Valerie explained they are working closely with the Bureau of Social Services and Family First founda-

ing they are serious about ticipation by our youth in pursuing an education. the healthy, character-The mall's plan is to con-building pastimes of comtinue the financial support petitive sport," explained Valerie Pieterz-Camacho during the scholarship announcement. "We feel that education is paramount in strengthening our island society. We hope to lead other island businesses in their commitment to youth by our example."





Happy Hours and So Much More at Sand at Brickel Bay!









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PALM BEACH - Hadicurari Restaurant is one of Aruba's 'your feet in the sand' restaurants. Located between the Marriott's Surf Club and the Holiday Inn Resort, it overlooks the pier where the fishermen unload their catch and where the brightly colored sails of the windsurfers dot the horizon. Already famous for its fresh fish (logical, as the fishermen bring it in right from the ocean), it now offers a fabulous, delicious Sunday Brunch. This is no ordinary Brunch, we can tell you. It is

made up of the best of the best and the price (\$ 39.-- per person) is a steal. Drink as many Mimosas or orange juice as you like and move your hips a bit to the mellow sounds of DJ Mista's lounge music. We'll just tease you a bit with a few fantastic items of Hadicurari's Brunch Menu: there are Breakfast items, Appetizers like Ceviche, Asian Salad, a Calamari basket, Prosciutto ham with Watermelon, a Caribbean fish consommé and a Mahi Mahi salad precede the Main Course options, like Grilled Tenderloin, Juicy Chicken Breast, a Pan-seared Grouper, the Catch of the Day and Garlic Shrimp. Don't forget to keep some space for dessert: Cheese Cake, Apple Pie, Chocolate Cake or Ice Cream.

The festive Sunday Brunch at Hadicurari is an all-you-can-eat feast, starting at 11 am and going on until 3 pm. Hadicurari is ready to surprise you with its surprisingly good deal, its new, fantastic Sunday Brunch. Enjoy!



Support Animal Rights Aruba's "We Need a Shelter" Campaign

ORANJESTAD - As you may already know, the main goal of Animal Rights Aruba (ARA) for the year 2015 is to build our own (dog/ cat) no-kill shelter. Currently, whenever stray doas or cats are identified, we have to immediately try to find them foster homes. We do this primarily through social media postings, emails or by calling our regular fosters we believe might be able to take them in. ARA has already received a piece of land from the Government of Aruba and the building plans and es-

timation of the total costs to build the shelter are finalized. Now we need the financial support of the community and commercial sector. This sub-project is named "Plot(s) for sale". ARA has divided the shelter terrain in "plots" (m2) and these plots are "for sale" for Afl. 250,= per plot. This is a form of donation that will help ARA collect the funds needed for the so much needed shelter. In order to give thanks to the company or individual, once you "buy a plot ARA will, expose your logo or name (with

ground plan in one or more plots.Always remember

your permission) on the that donations are tax deductible! ARA trust that the community and the com-



mercial sector will support ARA in making this much needed shelter a reality! Be part of the "We Need A Shelter" campaign! Buy your plot right now by making a donation at Animal Rights Aruba - KvK nr. S904. --Bank account number: 30627674 - RBC Royal Bank (Aruba) N.V.

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--Thru PayPal from our website: www.animalrightsaruba.com,

--or send us a check. Reference: "plot(s)".

SPURIS ENDAY

Swiss extradite FIFA's Jeffrey Webb to the United States

GRAHAM DUNBAR AP Sports Writer

Former FIFA Vice President Jeffrey Webb has been extradited to the United States following his arrest in Switzerland on racketeering and bribery charges filed by American prosecutors.

The Swiss Federal Office of Justice said Thursday the man was extradited a day earlier after 50 days of detention.

"He was handed over to a three-man U.S. police escort in Zurich who accompanied him on the flight to New York," the ministry said in a statement.

Two people familiar with the case identified the defendant as Webb and confirmed he has been brought to the United States. The people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case, declined to disclose his exact location.

Webb, who is from the Cayman Islands, was president of the CONCACAF, soccer's governing body for North and Central America and the Caribbean, and a FIFA vice president at the time of his arrest.

A total of 14 men — nine soccer officials and five marketing executives — were indicted by the U.S. Justice Department in May, including former FIFA vice president Jack Warner, who is resisting extradition from Trinidad and Tobago. Webb promised reform when he was elected in 2012 to succeed Warner as president of CONCA-CAF.

Continued on Page 22









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Spieth opens bid with good round, familiar foe in Scotland

DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)

— Jordan Spieth played like he had a Grand Slam to win. Dustin Johnson played like he had a score to settle.

The two main characters from Chambers Bay brought their games across eight time zones and an ocean Thursday and set the tone at St. Andrews for what could be another riveting battle at the British Open.

Spieth quickly seized on his opportunity for a third straight major with six birdies in his first 11 holes, fought through a chilly wind on the inward nine and closed with a birdie for a 5-under 67 that put him two shots out of the lead.

Johnson, whose three-putt from 12 feet on the final hole cost him a shot at the U.S. Open, looked as daunting as ever. He simply overpowered the Old Course with such force that he hit wedge into 10 of the par 4s and had an eagle putt on another. With a pair of big par saves on the tough closing holes, he played bogey-free for a 65 and for at least a day made good on a warning he made earlier in the week.

Asked about Spieth's chances to sweep the four majors, Johnson said, "Well, I'm playing the next two so we'll have to see."

This was hardly a two-man show.

The six players who were one shot behind at 66 in-



United States' Dustin Johnson drives a ball from the 13th tee during the first round of the British Open Golf Championship at the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, Thursday, July 16, 2015.

Associated Press

cluded former British Open champion Paul Lawrie and two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen. Jason Day, coming off his scary bout with vertigo symptoms at the U.S. Open, was back on his feet and back in the hunt. Most impressive from that group were Zach Johnson and Danny Willett, who posted their scores as the temperature dropped and wind stiffened late in the afternoon.

Spieth was joined at 67 by Louis Oosthuizen, the last Open champion at St. Andrews.

"If D.J. keeps driving it the way he is, then I'm going to have to play my best golf to have a chance," Spieth said.

The real test might come from the weather.

Spieth and Johnson got

a break by playing in the morning when St. Andrews was ripe for scoring — 10 of the top 12 scores came from that side of the draw. That didn't help Tiger Woods, who hit into the Swilcan Burn on the opening hole, made only one birdie and shot 76.

"Guys have been shooting good numbers," said Woods, a two-time Open champion at St. Andrews. "Unfortunately I did not do that." Instead, he was headed for a missed cut for the third time in his last four majors.

The afternoon wave suffered in chill and wind so strong that Phil Mickelson hit driver and 3-wood and didn't reach the 465-yard 13th hole. He said he had to hit 5-iron for his third shot on the par-5 14th. Johnson

was pin-high with a 3-wood in the morning. Mickelson made only one bogey on the back nine and shot 70. He called the conditions "fun," though his smile might not last if the morning group doesn't face the same conditions.

"We were at a significant disadvantage today," Mickelson said. "And hopefully, if we're able to play an entire day tomorrow, it will even itself out."

The first 26 groups had an average score of 71.46. The last 26 groups averaged 72.62

Rickie Fowler, coming off a victory in the Scottish Open, said the final seven holes was "hanging on for dear life." He made two bogeys, one eagle and 15 pars for a 72.

The forecast was for rain early Friday and wind calming as it clears, followed by stronger gusts in the afternoon. Saturday could have gusts approaching 40 mph. Any duel between Spieth and Johnson is void of animosity. They played in the same group, and during one long wait on the 17th tee, they laughed and chatted as if this were an

opening round at a regular PGA Tour event.

"No chat about the U.S. Open at all, as I wouldn't imagine there would be, other than talking about the differences in the course," Spieth said. "But I enjoy playing with Dustin. I've played a lot of golf with him."

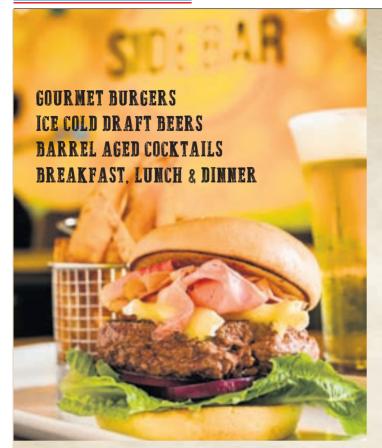
And he knows what to expect from golf's most athletic figure. Johnson hit driver on all but three holes, leaving him wedges into the par 4s (except for three longer holes into a hurting wind on the back nine) and a 7-iron that Johnson stuck to 10 feet for eagle on the par-5 fifth hole.

Spieth already has shown at the Masters and U.S. Open that power isn't everything. And while he laid back on several holes — Johnson's tee shots were on average 36 yards longer — Spieth can score.

He birdied four of the first six holes with putts inside 12 feet and took a share of the lead with a 10-foot putt on the par-3 11th. His lone mistake came in bunkers — a pot bunker in the 13th fairway he had to play out sideways, and the Road Hole bunker on the 17th. He blasted out to 6 feet and missed.

"I've played enough golf with him to where I believe in my skill set, that I can still trump that crazy ability that he has," Spieth said. "I expect when he stands on the tee it's going to up there miles and down the fairway. I also expect that I can birdie each hole when I stand on the tee — it just happens to be a different route." Not many can ap preciate the route Spieth is taking. Only five other players since 1934 have won the first two majors of the year. Only Ben Hogan has won the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open in the same year. No one has won all four.





Your Side or mine? Just come in Side...

Sidebar, the newest restaurant on Aruba is about bourbon and burgers, and way more!

What's so special about Sidebar, you might ask? Well, for starters, the restaurant menu offers a great variety. Breakfast will wake you up, lunch will make you sparkle with its specials. By the time dinner comes along you will be ready for an extraordinary appetizer, a superb wrap, a spectacular gourmet burger, a freshly caught local fish, a great salad or a tender steak. The menu covers all the bases as well as the outfield, with the stress on quality. Sidebar's chef is a miracle working in the creativity department, so you can always ask him to surprise you with his specials. Please note the unusual presentation of the dishes you ordered: the wizard is at work.

Sidebar is the newest restaurant on Aruba, and oh boy, it is a beauty! Unique in a trendy, sassy and sexy way, it is ready to welcome all of you.



Common ground and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonderful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere. Sidebar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on the amazing porch and enjoy - the party at Sidebar starts at 8 am and goes on until midnight.

At Sidebar you can sit in a booth, on a lounge chair, on a bar stool or stand at a cocktail table. Side Bar is all about options, so go and check it out on the far end corner of the Renaissance Marketplace.

Ejoy this new, hot, exciting and very, very tasty restaurant to the fullest!

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Popovich to coach, Gasols to play in NBA's 1st Africa game

BRIAN MAHONEY AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gregg Popovich will coach Team Africa with captain Luol Deng, while brothers Pau and Marc Gasol will play for Team World in the NBA's Team first game in Africa.

Popovich, the five-time or champion from the San Antonio Spurs, will guide Team Africa in the Aug. 1 game in Johannesburg, the league announced Thursday. He will be assisted on the bench by Atlanta's Mike Budenholzer, the NBA Coach of the Year and his assistant Monty Williams.

Team World will be (Sacramento). coached by Brooklyn's More than 35 players from projects. The game will be Chris Paul of the Los Angeles Clippers will serve

and Jeff Green (Memphis), Bradley Beal (Washington), Kenneth Faried (Denver), Marcus Smart and Evan The Spurs' R.C. Buford is Turner (Boston) and Nikola the Team World general Vucevic (Orlando).

Africa features players born in Africa second-generation Africans. Their roster is: Captain Deng (Miami), Al-Farouq Aminu (Portland), Nicolas Batum (Charlotte), Antetokounmpo Giannis Bismack (Milwaukee), Biyombo (Toronto), Boris Dikembe Mutombo Dieng (Minnesota), Festus Ambassador former assistant with the Ezeli (Golden State), Serge of Spurs, and Oklahoma City Ibaka (Oklahoma City)

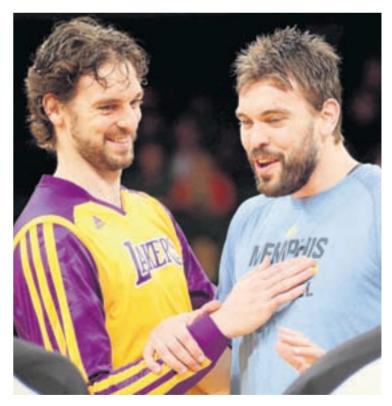
Lionel Hollins, with Boston's Africa have been on NBA Brad Stevens as an assistant. rosters since Hakeem Olajuwon was drafted No. SOS Children's Villages 1 by Houston in 1984.

as captain. Team World Diaw, who has a parent and the Nelson Mandela players are: Pau Gasol from Senegal, said he is Foundation.

(Chicago), Marc Gasol thrilled to take part "in what is truly a historic occasion." Ibaka will not play because of injury.

> manager, while Brooklyn's Billy King and Toronto's Masai Ujiri will hold the position for Team Africa.

The game will be held after the NBA's Basketball Without Borders camp and televised live on ESPN. Commissioner Adam Silver, NBA Global Ambassador Diaw (San Antonio), Gorgui Congo and NBA Africa Olajuwon Nigeria also will participate in the event and Luc Mbah a Moute which features clinics and other community service played in support of Boys & Girls Clubs of South Africa, Association of South Africa



In this Nov. 15, 2013, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol, left, and his brother, Memphis Grizzlies' Marc Gasol talk to referees before an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"When I heard about meaning for me through the NBA Africa Game I jumped at the chance to participate," Pau Gasol said. of Africa has a special the local community."

my foundation. I look forward to putting on a great show for the fans and "The continent taking part in activities in





Cardinals enter 2nd half with majors' best record

By R.B. FALLSTROM **AP Sports Writer**

ST. LOUIS (AP) -- Bruised and battle-tested, the St. Louis Cardinals watched their division lead dwindle to 2 1/2 games entering the All-Star break.

They still have the best record and stingiest staff in the major leagues - and hopes of some reinforcements. The Cardinals anticipate getting Matt Holliday back from the 15-day disabled list, too, just in time for their return series against the New York Mets at home beginning Friday. "I think guys don't buy into the fact that we can't do something," said manager Mike Matheny, who has presided over a strong body of work by an ensemble featuring multiple rookies and other temporary fixes. "There's going to be times during the season you're going to lose significant pieces."

The Cardinals are 56-33 despite injuries to ace Adam Wainwright, Matt Adams, Jon Jay, Jordan Walden, Marco Gonzales and Holliday, out since early June with a quadriceps injury.

Through great times, when the NL Central lead was nine games, and lean days, Matheny has been steadfast in ignoring the won-loss record and demanding commitment.

"It comes down to `What am I going to do right now? Am I going to be able to do my part, do my piece?'" he said. "It doesn't matter who is here or not here." Things to watch for the rest



National League's Jhonny Peralta, of the St. Louis Cardinals, hits an RBI single during the second inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in Cincinnati. **Associated Press**

of the way with the Cardi-

PITCHING PROWESS

The stingiest pitching staff in the majors is by far the biggest reason the Cardinals, who have been to the NL Championship Series or better a franchise-best four straight seasons, have a good shot to keep that run going. They have a 2.71 ERA, best at the break in the majors since the 1981 Astros posted a 2.81 ERA, according to STATS. They been two-way standouts landed three pitchers on at shortstop and catcher, the All-Star team: 10-game but the Cardinals could use winners Carlos Martinez and Michael Wacha, plus closer Trevor Rosenthal.

Wacha, Lance Lynn, Martinez, John Lackey and Jaime Garcia have a collective 2.84 ERA, the best prebreak showing by the franchise since 1968 when Bob Gibson set a major-league record with a 1.12 ERA.

SPOTTY OFFENSE

Holliday's return to the No. 3 slot could be a key for a lineup that's underachieved much of the time scoring three or fewer runs nearly half of the time. He's a proven run-producer, one of three active players with 1,000 career RBIs and a .300 batting average.

All-Stars Jhonny Peralta and Yadier Molina have more production from Matt Carpenter, Jason Heyward and the streaky Mark Reynolds. Carpenter is back at leadoff after struggling batting second, which figures to help, and Heyward has picked it up after a slow start. Matheny's strategy seems to be keeping the pressure off the bats.

"Our pitching sets the tone," he said. Guys have been doing a nice job of keeping us in games all the way through, the bullpen has done a nice job of finishing it up. Finding a way to win has almost been like a theme for our club."

FILL THE BLANKS

Randal Grichuk, once billed as an add-on in the swap of David Freese to the Angels for Peter Bourjos, has thrived with regular duty in left field in Holliday's absence with seven homers and 26 RBIs in 191 at-bats. The ball jumps off his bat. Reynolds and a handful of rookies have made Adams' likely season-ending quad injury in May less of a blow. Kevin Siegrist and Miguel Socolovich have stepped up in place of Walden in the set-up role.

COMEBACK KIDS

Garcia's contribution is a luxury coming off careerthreatening thoracic outlet surgery for nerve issues that cost him much of the previous two seasons. In seven starts, he's 3-3 with a 1.69 ERA, and he could return from a groin injury this weekend. Wacha shows no signs of the stress reaction to his pitching shoulder that cost him most of the second half of last season.

HOME PROWESS

The success story begins at Busch Stadium, where they're 31-11 for a major league-best .738 winning percentage, spurred by capacity crowds most games and a 2.31 staff ERA. Before the break, they won 11 of 14 home series.



Alps last major obstacle for Froome on Tour de France



Britain's Chris Froome, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, Colombia's Nairo Quintana, wearing the best young rider's white jersey, Spain's Alberto Contador, Tejay van Garderen of the U.S. and Spain's Alejandro Valverde, from left to right, ride in the pouring rain during the twelfth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 195 kilometers (121.2 miles) with start in Lannemezan and finish in Plateau de Beille, France, Thursday, July 16, 2015.

Associated Press

JOHN LEICESTER
AP Sports Writer
PLATEAU DE BEILLE, France
(AP) — One mountain range completed, one more to go.

Only the Alps loom as the last major obstacle between Chris Froome and a second Tour de France victory in Paris.

His rivals tried and failed to make the British rider and his super-strong Sky team wilt on the toughest — and last — day of climbing in the Pyrenees on Thursday, on Stage 12 won by Joaquim Rodriguez of Spain, who gritted his teeth in driving rain on the final climb for his second stage win.

With those mountains that straddle France and Spain behind them, the opportunities for podium contenders to eat into Froome's comfortable race lead are starting to run out. That might make them only more dangerous. They could take bigger risks, like speeding hell for leather on downhill roads, in hopes that Froome might crash, or gang up on him, as they sought to on Thursday's steep final ascent.

"There are only a certain amount of opportunities before we get to Paris," Froome said. "We've just got to expect everything to be thrown at us."

But to get to the 2013 champion, Froome's rivals must first get past his teammates. And that is a problem.

The big budget of his Sky team has bought the best help money can buy, riders so strong they could lead other teams if they weren't working for Froome.

They ride hard at the front, controlling the race. They allow only those riders with no hope of victory in Paris — like Rodriguez — to escape up the road, because they're chasing stage victories and other rewards, while Sky fixates on the big prize: Keeping Froome in the yellow jersey to the July 26 finish on the Champs-Elysees.

Rodriguez was part of a group of 22 riders — none of them podium contenders — that broke away shortly after the start in Lannemezan, a Pyrenees town of 6,500 inhabitants, whose signature dishes include black Bigorre pork and an almond cake named after bandits.

The 195-kilometer (121-mile) trek to the Plateau de Beille, which draws cross-country skiers when it snows, took the Tour up four increasingly high ascents, 53 kilometers (33 miles) in total.

Rodriguez made his move halfway up the final 16-kilometer (10-mile) uphill grind, wheeling around world champion Michal Kwiatkowski in a switchback, and riding alone to the finish. He celebrated by waving a pointed finger like John Travolta dancing in "Saturday Night Fever," and thrust both arms in the air. The leader of the Katusha team also won a shorter uphill finish on Stage 3.

Rodriguez started the day 19th overall, trailing Froome by more than 20 minutes. His winning ride moved him up to 15th but, at 13:45 off the lead, he's still not a podium threat.

The handful of riders who are, Froome and his team watch like hawks. Alberto Contador, Nairo Quintana and Vincenzo Nibali, his biggest rivals before Froome crushed them on the first day in the Pyrenees, tried testing him on the final ascent, takina turns with bursts of acceleration. But Richie Porte Geraint Thomas, Froome's guardians when the roads veer sharply uphill, and the race leader himself reeled in the challenges.

Thomas is riding so impressively that a podium double might even be possible for Sky in Paris. Thomas is fifth overall, less than a minute behind Quintana in third, and just over a minute behind Tejay van Garderen, the American leader of the BMC team who is proving resilient in second place.

But Froome remains in a class of his own. He bared his teeth on the last climb, with a turn of speed that shook off all but Quintana before the Colombian and other rivals caught him again.

"I was just testing the legs," Froome said.

His lead of 2:52 over Van Garderen and 3:09 over Quintana could comfortably carry him to victory in Paris if his rivals can't find ways to claw back time on the four Alpine stages, the last two particularly daunting.

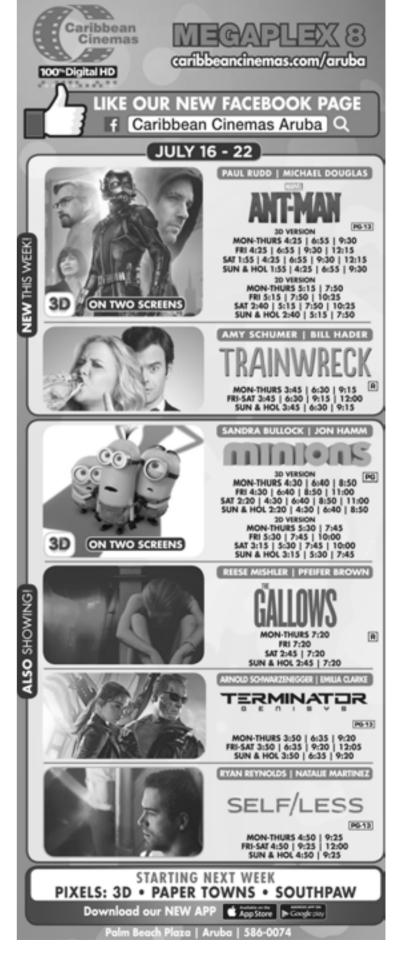
Quintana vowed to try.

"He's human like the others," the Movistar team leader said.

Skeptics aren't so sure. Froome's dominance is raising eyebrows and questions in a sport where trust remains in short supply, after Lance Armstrong's era of systematic doping.

Like an unwanted ghost, the American who was stripped of his seven Tour victories returned on Thursday to the fringes of the race, on a money-raising ride. He and Geoff Thomas, a former footballer raising funds to fight blood cancer, are riding two stages of the Tour route together, one day ahead of the race. Tour racers were largely indifferent, and Armstrong's presence wasn't felt at the race itself.

Podium contenders should be able to take something of a breather before the Alps. The next four stages take the Tour on a west-to-east swing. They are hilly but not hugely mountainous.





Mike Tyson sees himself in Ronda Rousey's UFC dominance

GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer GLENDALE, Calif. (AP) —

Moments after Mike Tyson stepped into the Glendale Fighting Club, Ronda Rousey grabbed her judo coach and abruptly flung him onto the canvas with an enormous bang.

This training violence unsettled Iron Mike, whose eyes widened in awe while Rousey repeatedly hiptossed Justin Flores with the same brute skill.

The former heavyweight champion finally spoke up. "It just doesn't look fun no more," Tyson said with a smile. "It's fun for me," Rousey replied from the cage. "I don't know about him."Tyson once dominated boxing in much the same way Rousey dominates mixed martial arts, overwhelming every opponent in their paths with a mixture of pre-fight intimidation, hard-earned skill and unstoppable force.

Dana White realizes the comparison is inexact, but the UFC president believes no other athletes in the socalled combat sports have separated themselves from

than Tyson and Rousey over the past 30 years.

any interest in competition, he saw shades of himself

their competition more Tyson is years removed from years, but hadn't seen her training work up close. "Ronda, she's a lady. Polite,



Mixed martial arts fighter Ronda Rousey, right, fist-bumps former boxer Mike Tyson after her workout at Glendale Fighting Club, Wednesday, July 15, 2015, in Glendale, Calif.

Associated Press

"These are two of the greatest to ever walk the planet in their sports," White said. "Not many people in the world can relate to that." Although the 49-year-old in the UFC's most authoritative champion when he dropped in to meet the appreciative Rousey this week. Tyson has watched Rousey's fights cageside for

kind, sweet and adorable," Tyson said. "But her whole barometer is, she's a killer. She has that killer aura. meaning anything is capable of happening. Whoa! That's exciting before the fight even starts. I think of myself when I watch her." Rousey (11-0) is the only women's bantamweight champion in the UFC's history, and the two-time U.S. Olympic judoka has dominated her new sport. She is heavily favored to win her next bout against Bethe Correia at UFC 190 in Rio de Janeiro on Aug. 1, but that hasn't stopped it from becoming one of the most attractive pay-per-view fights of the year, according to White.Rousey, who has stopped 10 of her 11 opponents in the first round, has been a big fan of Tyson for years. After the fighters chatted for several minutes, she even left her training session wearing an Iron Mike T-shirt.

"Tyson is like the God of War," White said. "When people see him at their fights, they freak out.

They love fighting in front of him."

After they bumped fists, Rousey gave tips to Tyson on Armenian food, and Tyson expressed his admiration for Rousey's training focus in front of spectators.

FIFA

A further four, including former FIFA executive committee member Chuck Blazer of the United States and two sons of Warner, had their guilty pleas unsealed in May.

They are alleged to have taken part in a racketeering conspiracy paying bribes of more than \$150 million over a 24-year period. The payments were tied to the award of broadcast and hosting rights for the World Cup, continental championships in North and South America, and regional club tournaments. Another of the arrested was Aaron Davison, president of the marketing company Traffic Sports USA, who is subject to home detention at his residence in Florida. A day ahead of a status conference in his case in federal court in Brooklyn, prosecutors sent a letter to U.S. District Judge Raymond J. Dearie inform-

Continued from Page 17

ing him that Davidson has been involved in plea negotiations.

The government said it anticipates "audio recordings in multiple languages" and "records produced to the United States by foreign countries pursuant to mutual legal assistance requests" will be part of discovery in Davidson's case. Prosecutors also said they are coordinating with FIFA's counsel to notify all 209 national federations of the proceedings.

All seven men were arrested on May 27 in dawn raids on a luxury hotel in Zurich by Swiss federal police at the request of American prosecutors.

They include FIFA vice president Eugenio Figueredo of Uruguay, who like Webb was suspended from soccer activity by FIFA's ethics committee.

The others are Jose Maria Marin, who led Brazil's 2014



In this May 27, 2015, file photo, two persons are reflected in the FIFA logo at the FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland. **Associated Press**

World Cup local organizing committee; Eduardo Li, an elected member of FIFA's executive committee and president of Costa Rica's soccer federation; FIFA staffer Julio Rocha, a development officer from Nicaragua; Venezuela federation president Rafael Esquivel; and Costas Takkas, a Briton who works for Webb.

Extradition hearings are being held by Zurich cantonal police in a process expected to finish by early September, Swiss justice office spokesman Raphael Frei told the Associated Press on Thursday. Appeals to Switzerland's federal criminal court and supreme court can extend the cases by several months.

Webb and Figueredo were named in the indictment among several men who have already shared in bribe payments of at least \$40 million linked to broadcast rights for four editions of the Copa America tournament.

Blazer admitted sharing in a \$10 million bribe scheme with Warner and a third FIFA voter to support South Africa's successful bid for the 2010 World Cup. South African officials asked FIFA to transfer the money through the governing body's accounts.

U.S. authorities have said more indictments could follow, and FIFA President Sepp Blatter is a target of the widening case.

Under pressure from the investigation and a separate Swiss federal probe of money laundering linked to FIFA's award of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, Blatter announced on June 2 that he intends to leave office.Blatter, who denies wrongdoing, has not attended FIFA business in nations that have extradition treaties with the U.S.

On Monday, he will chair an executive committee meeting in Zurich that is likely to decide on an election date for FIFA's member federations to replace him as president.

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EBay, PayPal outline plans for after split



This photo combination shows logos for eBay, left, and PayPal, outside the companies' corporate headquarters in San Jose, Calif. When eBay and PayPal split up on Friday, July 17, 2015, they'll face different challenges than they did as a combined company.

Associated Press

MAE ANDERSON AP Technology Writer NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

When eBay and PayPal split up on Friday, they'll face different challenges than they did as a combined company.

E-commerce company eBay first said in September 2014 it would split off its payments unit PayPal, in order to focus the two companies on growing profits individually. Investors, including activist Carl Icahn, had lobbied for the movie.

Though the split happens Friday, PayPal starts trading on the Nasdaq under the "PYPL" ticker on Monday, while San Jose, California-based eBay will keep trading under the "EBAY" symbol.

As separate units, eBay faces stiff competition from Amazon and other online retailers that have gained market share from traditional brick-and-mor-

tar stores. It also has to contend with the lingering effects from a cybersecurity breach and changes in Google's search algorithms that led to fewer eBay results popping up in Google searches.

On the other hand, online payment system Pay-Pal, which had long been eBay's fastest-growing segment, will have to compete with mobile wallets like Apple and Android Pay and online payment offerings from Chinese ecommerce retailer Alibaba and other retailers.

In a call after the two units posted quarterly profit that topped Wall Street's expectations, PayPal President Dan Schulman and eBay President Devin Wenig each outlined their plans for the two units following the split:

EBAY
EBay, which has been streamlining its business by selling some units, now

is focusing on reinvigorating its marketplace business, which includes the ecommerce arm of eBay. It stumbled last year when it had to deal with a change in Google's algorithms that made eBay products come up in search results less often.

On Thursday, Wenig said the company now is asking sellers to include more detailed product identifiers on their product listings, which seems to be helping search results.

Wenig said the company is also focusing on gaining traffic through social media. It was an early adapter of shoppable ads on Facebook and Pinterest and has increased efforts on Tumblr Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter's Periscope to drive traffic and user growth.

"While still small relative to our more established channels, traffic from social channels is growing over 100 percent year-on-year in the U.S.," Wenig said.
Wenig also reiterated
eBay's plan to focus on
small- and medium-size
merchants that make of 70
percent of the global retail

"Our absolute priority is to improve our competitiveness and drive more stable profitable growth over the long-term," Wenig said. PAYPAL

PayPal's goal going forward is to get more merchants to accept its payments in stores. It also wants PayPal users to pay with the service two or three times a week rather than the current average of two or three times a month.

Meanwhile, Schulman,

who will be CEO of PayPal after the split, would like PayPal users who typically use the payment system once or twice a month, to use it two or three times a week, like millennials use its Venmo app. The Venmo app is linked to a bank account or card and lets users pay friends with a text-like note.

Schulman said the company is making some progress. The Subway app powered by PayPal-owned Paydient is the No. 2 food and beverage app in the iOS app store and can be used in 30,000 stores. And Burger King is letting users pay with PayPal in 5,000 stores.

Los Angeles airport votes for Uber, Lyft passenger pickups



An Uber sign is displayed on a driver's car parked near the San Francisco International Airport parking area in San Francisco, Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles has moved toward becoming the biggest city in the U.S. to allow ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft to pick up passengers at the airport. Despite protests from taxi drivers who picketed the meeting, officials from Los Angeles International Airport voted in favor of the change Thursday.

Pickups could begin as early as August, but the plan is still subject to final approval from the airport and the city attorney.

The Los Angeles Times reports (http://lat.ms/1Jk70v7) the proposal includes a digital "fence" that would tell the airport when a driver from one of the services enters or leaves the terminal area.

Currently, the drivers are allowed to drop off passengers but not pick them up. Under the proposed changes, they'd have to pay a \$4 fee to do either.

Wall Street ends up on strong earnings

BERNARD CONDON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A new financial lifeline for Greece and strong corporate earnings on Thursday helped push U.S. stocks higher.

Stocks rose from the start, following a jump in major European indexes, as strong second-quarter results from Netflix, eBay, Citigroup and other companies fed the buying. By the

points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,124.29. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 70.08 points, or 0.4 percent, to 18,120.25. The Nasdaq composite climbed 64.24 points, or 1.3 percent, to 5,163.18.

Stocks in Europe got a boost from news that Greek lawmakers approved tax hikes, cuts to pensions and other measures demanded by its creditors. That was

38 companies in the S&P 500 have reported results and most have beaten expectations. That has raised hope that earnings won't be as bad as many have feared. S&P Capital IQ, a financial data provider, is predicting that earnings at companies in the S&P 500 will fall 3.8 percent from a year earlier.

Earnings expectations may be low, but "if today



Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal speaks during a ceremony announcing a \$300 million expansion of Google's data center operations in Lithia Springs, Ga. Google Inc. on Thursday, July 15, 2015 reported second-quarter earnings of \$3.41 billion. (AP Photo/David Goldman)



Traders Frank Masiello, center, and John Panin, right, talk about stock prices at the New York Stock Exchange. A new financial lifeline for Greece and strong corporate earnings on Thursday helped push U.S. stocks higher.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

end of the day, nine of 10 industry sectors of the Standard and Poor's 500 index posted gains.

Investors have been worried about a possible Greek financial collapse, plunging Chinese stocks and Puerto Rico's struggles to pay its debt.

But investors put those concerns aside as upbeat second-quarter company results suggested that earnings may turn out better than expected. A key gauge of anxiety among investors, the VIX, was down nearly 40 percent on Thursday from a week ago. "Some of the red flags in an announcement late — EBay rose \$2.15, or 3.4 the market have come down, and now the market pany had added far more announcing earnings that can look to earnings," said streaming-video subscrib-Kevin Dorwin, managing ers than projected in the principal of Bingham, Os-second quarter, 3.3 million. born & Scarborough, a San The shares climbed \$17.68 Francisco-based ment firm.

The S&P 500 gained 16.89 ings season a week ago, off PayPal.

followed by an announcement from the European Union that it would provide a short-term loan to Greece to help it cover its BMO Private Bank. debts through mid-August. And the European Central Bank said it would raise the amount of emergency liquidity available to the country's banks.

Germany's DAX and France's CAC-40 each climbed 1.5 percent.

Among U.S. companies posting earnings, Netflix was a big winner. Its stock soared 18 percent, the biggest gain in the S&P 500. Investors were reacting to ing moves: Wednesday that the cominvest- to \$115.81.

is any indication, threequarters of the companies will beat," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer of

Citigroup climbed \$2.13, or 3.8 percent, to \$58.59 after announcing profits had rebounded in the second quarter from a year earlier, when the bank had recorded a huge legal settlement for its role in the housing bubble and financial crisis. Companies reporting Friday include General Electric, Honeywell and Kansas City Southern.

Among other stocks mak-

percent, to \$65.59 after topped Wall Street expectations.

The company also said it sold a business that helps develop online sites for re-Since the start of earn-tailers as it prepares to spin

Google Q2 signals new era of austerity with new CFO

MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Technology Writer SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

After years of big spending on risky projects that CEO Larry Page proudly "moonshots," hails as Google may be launching into a new orbit of financial discipline.

Investor hopes for a more austere Google are largely tied to the arrival of a new chief financial officer, Ruth Porat. She joined Google in late May, about two-thirds of the way through the Internet company's second quarter. Thursday's release of Google's report covering that period indicates that Porat already may be shaking things up.

Excluding stock compensation expense and several other items, Google earned \$6.99 per share topping the average estimate of \$6.70 per share among analysts surveyed by FactSet. The pleasant surprise ended a streak of six consecutive quarters in which Google's earnings missed the analyst estimates that steer investors' perceptions about publicly held companies. Investors welcomed the change as Google's stock gained \$43.90, or 7 tended trading after the numbers came out.

"It's like, 'Wow, look Ruth is already doing her thing,"" said BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis.

Google could have been making more money all along if the growth in its engine.

expenses hadn't consistently been rising at a faster pace than its revenue, Gillis said.

The company's rising costs have been driving primarily by a hiring spree and its commitment to "moonshots" that have little or nothing to do with its main business of Internet search and advertising. The list of far-flung projects include self-driving cars, Internet-beaming loons, medical research and even a recently launched initiative change the way cities operate. Google's operating expenses climbed 13 percent from last year in the second quarter, slightly eclipsing an 11 percent increase in the company's revenue to \$17.7 billion.

Porat signaled that may change in future quarters. While Google will continue to explore promising opportunities, Porat pledged to do so "with great care regarding resource allocation." Porat had impressed Wall Street with her budget management while holding the same job at investment bank Morgan Stanley for five years.

The expansion into new areas has come as Google percent, to \$645.68 in ex- faces more competitive threats from other big Internet companies such as Facebook and Amazon. com Inc. while mobile applications make it easier for people to find what they need in other places besides Google's search



Goldman Sachs Q2 earnings dip over legal costs

STEVE ROTHWELL AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Goldman Sachs' second-quarter profit slumped by more than 50 percent after the firm set aside \$1.45 billion for legal costs related to mortgage-backed securities. The large legal charge marred what would otherwise have been a relatively good quarter for the bank. Its investment banking business benefited from a surge in corporate deals and earned more in fees from advising clients. Those gains were offset by falling revenue at the bank's bond and currency trading unit.

THE NUMBERS: Total net income fell to \$916 million from \$1.95 billion a year earlier, Goldman Sachs said Thursday. That was after paying dividends on preferred stock. On a pershare basis, quarterly earnings fell to \$1.98.

Overall, revenue slipped 1 percent to \$9.07 billion, although that was better than the \$8.75 billion analysts had expected, according to the data provider FactSet.

LEGAL WOES: Goldman said that the cost of provisions for mortgage-related litigation and "regulatory matters" cut earnings per share by \$2.77. The costs stem from potential misconduct relating to the sale of securities backed by residential mortgages. Those securities plunged in value during the financial crisis.

DEALS MEANS DOLLARS: Revenue from investment banking jumped 13 percent to \$2.02 billion. Goldman advised on deals such as oil giant Shell's \$70 billion acquisition of gas company BG Group, as well as Intel's \$16.7 billion acquisition of chip designer Altera. Deals have surged this year as companies take advantage of low interest rates to finance acquisitions. Revenue at the bank's investment management arm also rose, climbing 14 percent from a vear earlier.

Citigroup jumps after a big legal charge a year ago

KEN SWEET AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Citigroup's profits rebounded in the second quarter from the same period a year earlier, when the bank recorded a huge legal settlement with regulators.

The bank said Thursday that it earned \$4.57 billion after payments to preferred shareholders as the bank cut expenses across the board, sharply higher than the \$102 million it earned a year earlier.

Citi's second-quarter profits were basically erased last year after the bank recorded \$3.8 billion in costs related to settling charges over its role in the housing bubble and subsequent financial crisis.

On a per-share basis, Citi earned \$1.51, compared with 3 cents a year earlier. Adjusted earnings were \$1.45 a share, due to a sixcent accounting adjustment tied to value of Citi's debt holdings, but that still beat the \$1.35 per share that financial analysts were expecting. Citi's global consumer banking division, which includes Citi's U.S. retail banking chain, credit cards, as well as its consumer banking business in Latin America and Asia, had net income of \$1.63 billion. That's up 4 percent from a year ago, helped by a drop in expenses.

Like Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase, Citi has been looking to cut ex-

penses in its consumer banking division through branch closures, layoffs and other measures. The bank had 15 percent fewer branches than it did a year ago, Citi said.

so-called "bad bank" that holds the bad mortgages and other toxic securities left over from the financial crisis, made a modest profit compared with the \$3.4 bil-

become a slimmer, more efficient company and so far, the strategy is working. The bank passed the Federal Reserve's so-called in the quarter of \$157 million stress test earlier this year, after failing in 2014. Citi



A man walks past a branch of Citibank in the Financial District in San Francisco. Citigroup reported second-quarter results on Thursday, July 16, 2015.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

Citi saw a drop in trading revenue compared to the first quarter, in line with other major banks, as financial markets became less volatile. Fixed income, currency and commodity trading revenue declined 12 percent from the first quarter to \$3.06 billion, while stock trading revenue fell 25 percent.

Citi Holdings, the bank's

lion loss the business had a year ago.

Citi has been winding down and selling off assets in Citi Holdings for several years. Since last year, the division has been making small profits each quarter. Assets in Citi Holdings were \$116 billion, down 22 percent from a year earlier.

Under CEO Michael Corbat, Citi has been trying to was able to raise its quarterly dividend to 5 cents a share in March, the bank's first increase since the 2008 financial crisis.

Net revenue at the bank totaled \$19.47 billion, compared with \$19.43 billion in the same period a year earlier.

Citigroup's stock rose \$1.52, or 2.7 percent, to \$57.99 in early morning trading.

Big jumps for several initial public stock offerings

Associated Press

Investors found several small names making big jumps Thursday in a strong day for initial public offerings.

Pronai Therapeutics was the standout among the newcomers, soaring more than 80 percent by early afternoon. The clinical stage cancer drug developer's shares priced at \$17, above the expected range, and hit \$31.17 by Thursday afternoon.

Shares of the company, based in Canada, are trading on the Nasdaq under

the symbol "DNAI."

There have been 49 health care IPOs this year, the most in any sector, according to research firm Renaissance Capital. There have been 109 initial public offerings thus far this year in the U.S. overall, raising \$18.8 billion. That is nearly 28 percent fewer IPOs versus last year, which was a tremendously active period as companies such as Alibaba, Go-Pro and others went public. Other strong performers Thursday included biotech company Chiasma and closeout retailer Ollie's Bar-

gain Outlet Holdings, which both gained about 30 percent by the afternoon.

Chiasma raised \$102 million by offering 6.4 million shares at \$16, above the expected \$13 to \$15 range. It sold 1 million shares more than originally planned. Its shares are trading on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol "CHMA." Chiasma was up \$4.49 at \$20.49.

Ollie's raised \$143 million through its offering of 8.9 million shares at \$16, also above the expected range. The company operates 187 warehouse style

stores across the Eastern U.S. where it sells closeout housewares, books, food, toys and more. Its shares are trading on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol "OLLI." Ollie's was up \$5.27 to \$21.27.

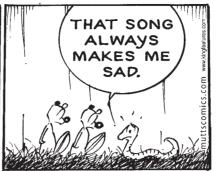
And Jupai Holdings Ltd. priced its offering at \$10, at the low end of its expected range. Shares of the Chinese wealth management company rose 87 cents, or 8.7 percent, to \$10.87. The American depository shares trade on the New York Stock Excyange under the symbol "JP." \square

Aruba TODAY

Mutts







6 Chix



Blondie







Mother Goose & Grimm







Baby Blues





Zits







Conceptis Sudoku

		2	5			4		
				7		6		
9					4		1	8
1						8		
	8			4			2	
		5						1
2	9		1					4
		4		3				
		6			9	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

er	9	3	5	2	1	8	6	7	4
ınsw	6	1	8	4	7	3	2	5	9
Yesterday's puzzle answer	7	2	4	9	6	5	8	3	1
nd s	3	7	1	5	8	6	4	9	2
rday	8	9	2	7	4	1	3	6	5
/este	4	5	6	3	2	9	7	1	8
	1	4	9	8	3	7	5	2	6
	2	6	3	1	5	4	9	8	7
	5	8	7	6	9	2	1	4	3

ACROSS

- 1 Money risked 6 Poor box
- donation 10 Be lazy
- 14 Unassisted
- 15 Cut calories 16 Egg on
- 17 Bench boards 18 Greek letter
- 19 Rational 20 Element whose
- symbol is H 22 __ on; told the
- misdeeds of 24 "Woe is me!"
- 25 Bottle up, as one's emotions26 Garv or Jackie
- 26 Gary or Jackie 29 Cowboy's competition
- 30 "If I __ a Hammer"
- 31 Play a guitar 33 Sword fights 37 Family
- restaurant 39 Person
- 41 Spinnaker or jib
- 42 Remedies 44 Golfer with the
- highest score 46 Coral or
- Caribbean 47 More unusual
- 49 Confined 51 "__ are the meek..."
- 54 Foundation 55 Make changes in
- 56 Polite; refined 60 Pennsylvania and Fifth: abbr.
- 61 Gator's cousin 63 Early video game maker
- 64 Fender blemish 65 Attractive man 66 Fasten again 67 __ aside;
- reserves
 68 Small bills
- 69 Ashes & alders
- DOWN
 1 Do laundry
 2 Actress Sheedy

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

- 3 Spur on4 Catch5 Installs new shoe bottoms
- 6 Sculpting tools7 Title search discovery
- 8 Encountered 9 Gazed 10 Like shiny
- fabric 11 Give a speech 12 Ms. Moorehead
- 13 Nourishes
 21 Singer Brooks
 23 Made fun of
- 25 Italian tomatoes
- 26 Stylish 27 Honolulu's island
- 28 Stench 29 Bit of gossip 32 Reigned
- 32 Reigned 34 Orient 35 In __ of; as a
- substitute for 36 Strike with an open hand
- C A F E C A S T S S O F A
 A W R Y O T T E R L U A U
 G L U E L O A N S H A R K S
 E S S L U N G O N S E T
 S T R A I N S S I E S T A
 O R A L S S S P I C Y H U B
 L A T E P L E B E C C E D E
 D D E P P O E T S M A R I A
 E D W A R D S S A L M O N
 S T O R K S S T A Y
 A D Z E E L A T E H A R P
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- 38 Lasts 40 Himalayan nation 43 Talk back
- nation 43 Talk back 45 Easy way to fix a minor PC
- a minor PC problem, often 48 Reverberate 50 SPCA advice
- 51 Pitt and Garrett 52 Embankment 53 Happening 54 Dollars fix 56 Scoop holder 57 Price per hour straight 15 U.S. lake 59 Passes away

62 __ away; flee



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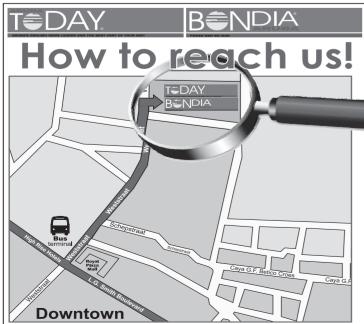
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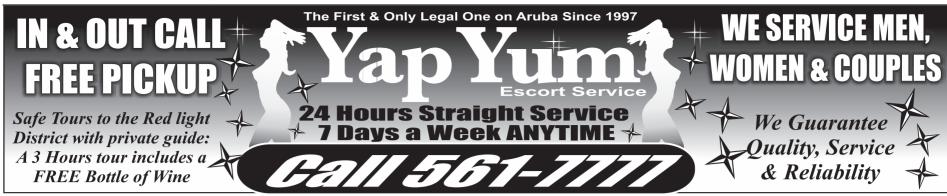
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Annual checkup of Earth's climate says water is hotter

SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

washington (AP) — In their annual, detailed physical of Earth's climate, U.S. scientists say the world is in increasingly hot and rising water.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the American Meteorological Society's annual state of the climate report, released Thursday, delves into the details of already reported recordsmashing warmth globally in 2014, giving special attention to the world's oceans.

NOAA climate monitoring chief Deke Arndt, co-editor of the report, said the seas last year "were just ridiculous."

The report said ocean surface temperatures were the warmest in 135 years of records, with the seas holding record levels of heat energy down to 2,300 feet below the surface. Sea level also hit modern highs, partly because warmer water expands.

About 93 percent of the man-made heat energy

from the burning of fossil fuels went into the world's said NOAA oceans, oceanographer Greg Johnson. And that heat energy trapped in the ocean affects all sorts of weather, including providing more fuel for tropical cyclones, said Tom Karl, director of NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information.

All sorts of warming events shifted into overdrive, especially in the Pacific. In addition to a brewing El Nino — where weather worldwide is changed by warm water in parts of the central Pacific — there was a warming of the northeast Pacific nicknamed "The Blob" and a larger scale warming called the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, which often coincides with faster warming of the planet, Johnson said.

Johnson said subtropical fish not normally seen that far north were appearing off the coast of an unusually warm Alaska.

More than 400 scientists wrote the peer-reviewed 292-page study, the 25th



In this Sept. 12, 2014 file photo, a fishing boat heads out to the Atlantic Ocean near Miami as dark clouds loom in the distance.

year that the climate checkup was conducted. Its highlights include:

—Four different measuring systems concluded that 2014 was hottest year on record on Earth's surface. However, because of margins of error, there's a chance it could only be second hottest.

—Many places, such as Europe, not only had record heat on average, but record patches of extreme heat.

—There were 91 tropical cyclones worldwide in

2014, slightly more than the 30-year average of 82.

—Permafrost in Alaska measuring sites thawed, as temperatures at 65 feet (20 meters) underground set record highs for the second year in a row.

—Glaciers worldwide continued to shrink, but not at a record pace.

—Arctic sea ice, while not at a record setting low last year, is still declining over the long-term.

—However, Antarctic sea ice hit record high levels for the third straight year; different factors aside from temperature have been a cause, said NOAA climate scientist Jessica Blunden.

Associated Press

Jeff Severinghaus of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, who wasn't part of the report, said if this is Earth's annual checkup, "the doctor is saying 'you are gravely ill.'"

Online:

NOAA's State of the Climate: http://www.climate. gov/news-features/understanding-climate/2014-state-climate-highlights.







TLC cancels '19 Kids and Counting,' plans education push

FRAZIER MOORE AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After weeks in limbo stemming from revelations of sexual misconduct by one of its stars, the TLC reality show "19 Kids and Counting" is officially dead.

TLC is not moving forward with an 11th season of "19 Kids" featuring the Duggars, whose show "will no longer appear on the air," the network told The Associated Press on Thursday.

"We spent the past month and a half in thoughtful consideration about what is the best way forward here," said Marjorie Kaplan, group president of TLC, Animal Planet and Velocity networks

In a move to redirect the attention and public outcry, TLC also announced it has teamed with two prominent child-protection organizations for an ongoing campaign to raise awareness about child sexual abuse.

The multi-platform initiative will begin with a one-hour, commercial-free documentary likely airing in late August, the network said. It will include the participation of Jill and Jessa Duggar, two of the sisters Josh Duggar touched inappropriately, as well as other survivors and families affected



In this Aug. 2, 2007 file photo, Michelle Duggar, left, is surrounded by her children and husband Jim Bob, second from left, after the birth of her 17th child in Rogers, Ark.

by such abuse.

"We look forward to working with TLC on this upcoming special documentary and hope that it is an encouragement to many," the Duggar family said in a statement Thursday.

Since 2008, the series — TLC's most watched, averaging 3.2 million viewers — had chronicled the family life of Arkansas couple Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar and their children, now numbering 19. It was pulled from the network in May when reports surfaced that 27-year-old Josh Duggar, the oldest child, had

fondled four of his sisters and a baby sitter a dozen years earlier, when he was a teenager.

He has never been arrested or charged in connection with the molestations. Josh Duggar apologized for unspecified actions on a Facebook post and resigned from the Family Research Council, a conservative Christian group, where he had worked as a lobbyist.

Two weeks later, the Duggar parents were interviewed on Fox News Channel, as were Jill and Jessa Duggar, who said they

weren't aware the fondling had happened until Josh confessed years later and their parents told them about it.

Associated Press

The show had ended its 10th season when the scandal broke; Hulu quickly pulled it from its offerings.

"We took it as an opportunity to step further than just 'How do we protect ourselves?' and step into 'How do we protect our audience and protect children?'" Kaplan said. "Our hope is to do more of that, in a way that's thoughtful and respectful of the victims of child abuse — in the

Duggar family and across America."

TLC is partnering with Darkness to Light, whose mission is providing interested parties with techniques for protecting children from sexual abuse, and RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), which describes itself as the nation's largest anti-sexual-violence organization.

"We anticipate this will be a long-term partnership with them," Kaplan said.

"The goal is to take what has been a difficult and painful experience, and focus that attention on the really critical issue of child protection and child sexual abuse," she said, adding that several filmmakers are under consideration for the planned documentary.

The Duggar family also expressed their hopes that TLC's partnership and documentary would have a positive impact.

"It is our prayer that the painful situation our family went through many years ago can point people toward faith in God and help others who also have lived through similar dark situations to find help, hope and healing, as well," they said. Kaplan admitted to having been "completely unaware" of the pervasiveness of child abuse.

Luke Bryan says he misspoke about outlaw country

KRISTIN M. HALL Associated Press NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Country star Luke Bryan said he misspoke when he differentiated himself from outlaw country musicians like Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard and Waylon Jennings by saying he doesn't do drugs.

Bryan, the reigning Country Music Association and Academy of Country Music entertainer of the year, apologized for how the comments appeared in an article on the online magazine, HITS Daily Double.

"I'm not an outlaw country singer," he said in a July 9

article. "I don't do cocaine and run around. So I'm not going to sing outlaw country. I like to hunt, fish, ride around on my farm, build a big bonfire and drink some beers— and that's what I sing about. It's what I know. I don't know about laying in the gutter, strung out on drugs."

Bryan, the reigning Country Music Association and Academy of Country Music entertainer of the year, artists.

"It's not my style," he wrote.
"I consider Willie, Waylon and Merle musical heroes."
Bryan told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he wasn't clear when talking

about the wide variety of musicians within the genre. "You have to take things and learn from them, but at the end of the day, I was really speaking from where I draw my fuel and inspiration for music," Bryan said. "It just got weirdly associated with Willie and Waylon and Merle. And I may have done a better job if I said, 'a modern form of outlaw country.' When I originally stated them in the interview, it was an earlier part, but then I moved on and it got all put together."

Bryan, whose new album, "Kill The Lights," comes out Aug. 7, said that he's been



In this June 10, 2015 file photo, country singer Luke Bryan arrives at the CMT Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

consumed by the negative reaction some fans had to the comments, but he hopes they understand what he meant to say.

"I want everybody to be

happy," he said. "And I want everybody to like me. But that just sometimes isn't possible. I've had to learn that's just not the way it's going to be."



Brad Pitt, Bill Maher slam Costco, speak up for caged hens

SANDY COHEN AP Entertainment Writer

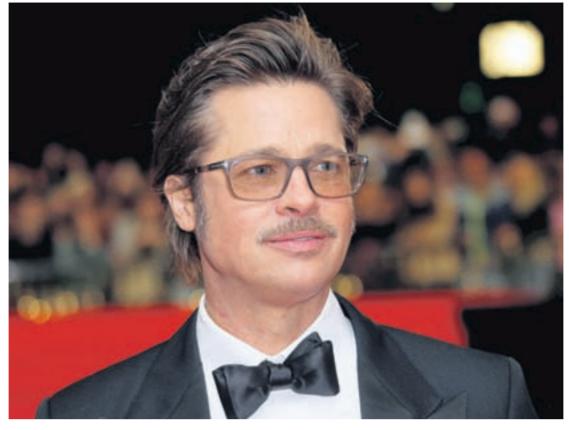
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Brad Pitt and Bill Maher say Costco contributes to animal cruelty by selling eggs from caged hens.

Pitt sent a letter to the chief executive of the big-box chain Thursday asking the company to stop selling eggs produced this way. Pitt's letter to Craig Jelinek says caged birds suffer atrophy of their muscles and bones from years of immobility, adding that the cages have been banned in California and much of

"As you know, these birds producing eggs for your shelves are crammed five or more into cages that are not large enough for even one hen to spread her wings," Pitt writes.

Maher took aim at the company in an editorial published last week by The New York Times.

"Multiple investigations into battery cages document animals with deteriorated spinal cords, some who



In this Oct. 19, 2014 file photo, actor Brad Pitt poses for photographers at the premiere for the film "Fury," which closes the BFI London Film Festival, at the Odeon cinema in central London. **Associated Press**

have become paralyzed in each shed, for their enand then mummified in their cages," Maher wrote. "Imagine cramming five elty charges, of course. cats or dogs into tiny cag- But when the egg industry

tire lives.

That would warrant crues, hundreds of thousands does it to hens, it's consid- on its 2007 promise to move

ered business as usual." Both commended Costco for its other animal-welfare efforts and called on the company to make good toward uncaging its egglaying hens.

Pitt and Maher each spoke out on behalf of Farm Sanctuary, an organization that advocates against the mistreatment of animals and factory farming. Costco said in June statement that there are "vigorous debates about animal welfare and laying hens." "Some, such as the Humane Society, advocate that hens be 'cage free,' and not confined in cages. Some advocate that cages are safer for hens," the statement reads.

The statement acknowledges that Costco's sales of organic/cage-free eggs have increased "more than twentyfold" over the past nine years.

The company did not elaborate, nor specifically address the celebrity complaints.

Costco said it is "committed to the ethical treatment of animals" and its code of ethics is part of the company mission statement.

Rumer Willis to step into B'way's 'Chicago' this summer

MARK KENNEDY AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bruce Willis' daughter is beating her famous dad to Broad-

Producers of the long-running musical "Chicago" said Thursday that Rumer Willis, recently named "Dancing with the Stars" winner, will make her Broadway debut in August as Roxie Hart.

Her dad will be making his Broadway debut in "Misery" starting in October.

Set in the 1920s, "Chicago" is a scathing satire of how show business and the media make celebrities out of criminals. It has Bob Fosse-inspired choreography, skimpy outfits and killer songs such as "All That Jazz," "Cell Block Tango" and "Mr. Cellophane."

Rumer Willis, who has been onstage in "Love, Loss and



In this June 25, 2015 file photo, Rumer Willis arrives at the LA Premiere of the documentary "Amy" in Los Angeles. **Associated Press**

her mother Demi Moore in lu Henner, Rita Wilson and the films "Striptease" and "Now and Then," will start Bruce Willis will star in an adat the Ambassador Theatre aptation of Stephen King's on Aug. 18 and end her run novel "Misery," which be-Oct. 11. Just some of the gins performances Oct. 22 stars who have done stints at the Broadhurst Theatre. in the show include Sofia Laurie Metcalf will appear Vergara, Melanie Griffith, Brooke Shields, Ashlee

What I Wore" and opposite Simpson, Paige Davis, Mari-Christie Brinkley.

> opposite the "Die Hard" star.



In this July 22, 2014 file photo shows Spike Lee during the "Independent Lens" panel at the the PBS 2014 Summer TCA in Beverly

Associated Press

Amazon Studios acquiring Spike Lee film as its 1st release

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon last week. Directed by Lee, Studios says it has acquired Spike Lee's new film as its first Amazon Original Mov-

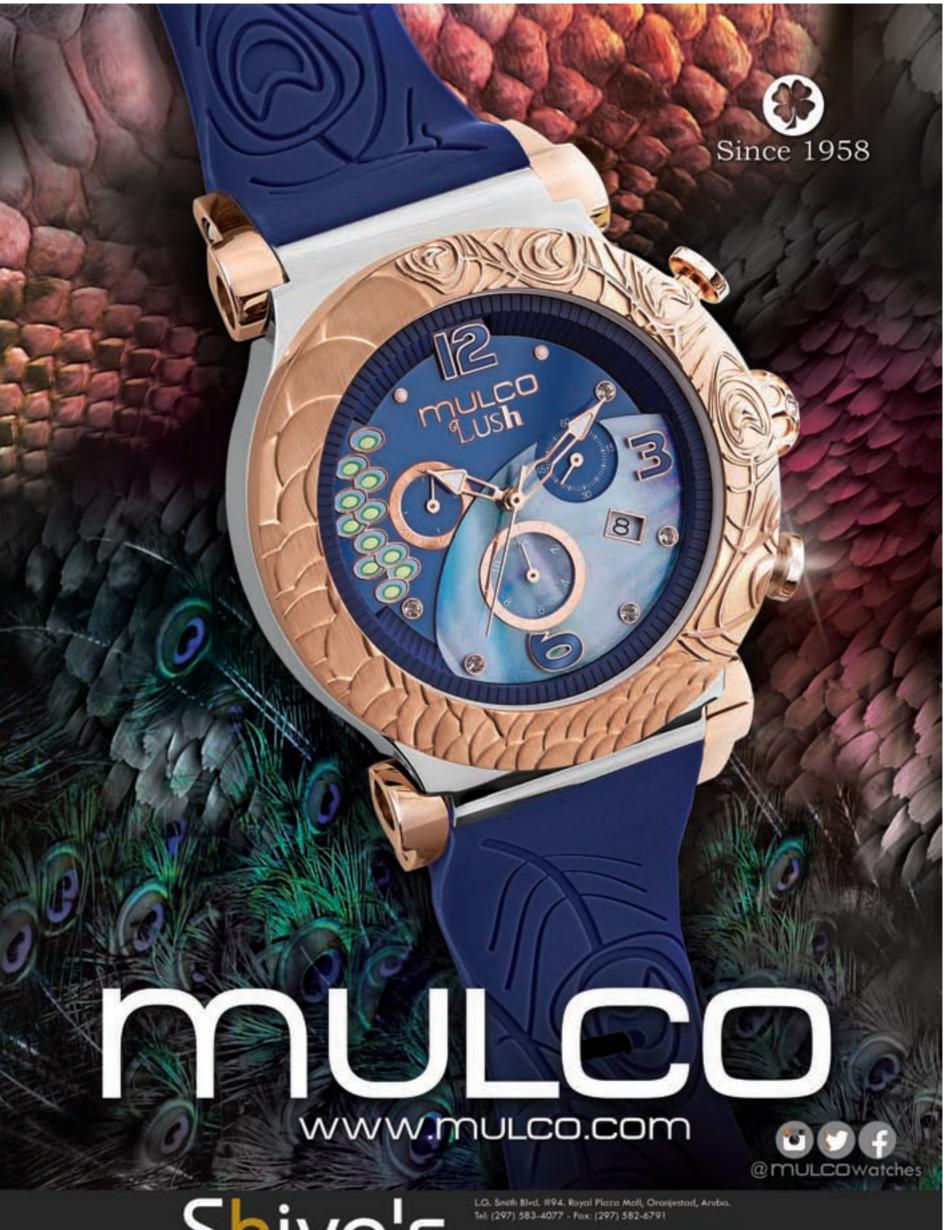
The film, with the working non, Wesley Snipes, Jennifer Hudson and Teyonah Parris, as well as D.B. Sweeney, Harry Lennix, Steve Harris and Angela Bassett, plus John Cusack and Samuel L. Jackson.

"Chi-Raq" was shot entirely in Chicago and wrapped

it was co-written by Lee and Kevin Willmott. It focuses on violence in inner-city Chicago.

Amazon Studios' Ted Hope title "Chi-Raq," features a said, "It would be imposcast including Nick Can-sible to find a better filmmaker" than Lee to launch the studio with.

> Amazon Original Movies, announced in January, was formed to produce and acquire original movies for theatrical release as well as distribution to its Amazon Prime members...



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